

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA FROUNFELKER

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Patricia Frounfelker, recently nominated for the 2008 Service to America Call to Service Medal. Ms. Frounfelker is being nominated for her studies of potential hazards and risks associated with U.S. combat vehicles. Ms. Frounfelker's research on these hazards has led to safety improvements that are minimizing risks for our Nation's soldiers on the front line.

In her three years of government service with the Army Research Laboratory at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, Patricia Frounfelker has become a leading expert in analyzing and characterizing the survivability of U.S. Army soldiers to a wide variety of potential risks. Most recently, she examined the potential for reactive armor to cause collateral injuries to troops who are near a tactical vehicle that is under attack. Ms. Frounfelker developed a detailed test plan to characterize reactive armor tiles being sent to Iraq for use on the Abrams tank. She collected and analyzed the data following each test and determined the collateral injuries likely to be suffered by dismounted U.S. troops within proximity to the tank. Ms. Frounfelker conducted her analysis using a novel methodology that she had previously developed to characterize the collateral damage to dismounted troops within proximity of the Stryker and Bradley vehicles. Her results identified areas of concern regarding hazards from each version of reactive armor and have led the Army to change how dismounted troops operate around these vehicles.

During the same period, Ms. Frounfelker served as the lead assessor of crew casualties for 25 U.S. Army developmental systems, including 11 that were fielded in Iraq or Afghanistan. These systems included three variants of the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) and several tactical wheeled vehicles. She collected and analyzed fragment data for every live-fire test of these systems, and her assessments provided the data needed to assess the lethality of U.S. munitions and the survivability of combat vehicles.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Patricia Frounfelker in her nomination for the 2008 Service to America Call to Service Medal. Patricia Frounfelker's efforts in this time of war have directly benefited soldiers and Marines by identifying and assessing potential injuries they might suffer in or near U.S. combat vehicles. This has allowed the Army to modify the vehicles or the tactics, techniques and procedures before the vehicles are fielded to better protect U.S. military personnel. Her efforts have resulted in better equipped, better protected warfighters, who are better able to protect and defend our

Nation. It is with great pride that I congratulate Patricia Frounfelker on her exemplary efforts to increase safety for our armed forces overseas.

TRIBUTE TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT MICHAEL CMELIK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Nashua, Iowa native and TSgt Michael P. Cmelik as a recipient of a Bronze Star Medal for his heroic achievements during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Bronze Star, the Department of Defense's fourth highest award given, is awarded to individuals for bravery, heroism, and meritorious service.

Technical Sergeant Cmelik earned the Bronze Star as an elite member of the 15th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron while operating in Kalsu, Iraq during his third tour of duty in Iraq. As stated by the military in a press release related to his award, "Sgt. Cmelik's leadership and professionalism ensured his Brigade Commander's intent for airpower was always met, and more often than not, exceeded. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect distinct credit upon himself, this command, the United States Army and the United States Air Force."

Technical Sergeant Cmelik's bravery goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country, and his heroism and hard work illustrates the compassion and professionalism of America's troops. I commend TSgt Michael P. Cmelik's courageousness and service to our great Nation and consider it an honor to represent Sergeant Cmelik and his family in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues join me in wishing him the best in his future service to our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NA- TIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CREDIT MANAGEMENT SOUTHWEST

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Association of Credit Management Southwest (NACMSW) who will celebrate its 100th birthday on July 18, 2008.

Since its founding in 1908, NACMSW has served as a primary learning, knowledge, and information source for its members. They provide valuable education and research programs to address the ever changing and growing needs of its members. NACMSW re-

mains a vocal advocate for business credit and financial management professionals and pushes for the highest ethical and professional standards. I know NACMSW will continue to be a valuable resource for the local community and remain on the forefront of the credit industry.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest birthday wishes to the National Association of Credit Management Southwest.

JULY 4, 2008, NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate the individuals who will take their oath of citizenship on July 4, 2008. In true patriotic fashion, on the day of our great Nation's celebration of independence, a naturalization ceremony will take place, welcoming new citizens of the United States of America. This memorable occasion, coordinated by the Hammond Public Library and presided over by Magistrate Judge Paul R. Cherry, will be held at Harrison Park in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the globe to the United States in search of better lives for their families. The upcoming oath ceremony will be a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America, that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize the great things America has to offer. They realize that nowhere else in the world is the opportunity for success and a better life available to them than here in America.

On July 4, 2008, the following people will take their oath of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Mindi Thi Bul, Lidia Quinonez, Claudia Rodriguez, Maria de la Luz Godinez, Venkat Santhosh Reddy Poddutur, Juanita Martinez, Chu-Mei Peng, Pantelis George Baramantas, Teresa Fernandez, Jose Cruz Alvarez Martinez, Iris Xiomara Sierra, Nada Jerkovic, Juan Tellez Rangel, Sarp Kocak, Juana Ramirez de Pantoja, Aurelio Jimenez, Michal Armatys, Rosy Oliva Arreaga, Stevanda Vukicevic, Tanuja Reddy Poddutur, Genoveva Atilano, Lelis Estella Lizama, Arel Cherry, Dejan Lukich, Silvia Vazquez, Monica Leticia Dominguez, Rodolfo Macias, Snezana Krkobabic, Mario Gonzalez Salgado, Victor Manuel Garcia Garcia, Maria Carmen Avina, Cristina Varzoaba, Filiberto Corona, Ma Melorie Villagracia Rodriguez, Hilda Gonzalez, Gregorio Martinez Sanchez, Maria de Jesus Alvarez, Orlando Jimenez Serna, Diana Lewis, Jose Antonio Saldana, Ivanja Corak, Farida

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Begum, Elva Miriam Reyna, Fidelina Rodriguez, Beatriz Anaya Vargas, Efrén Carranza, Arturo Cantero Paredes, Carlos Nicolas Perez Aranda, Maria Stoneburner, and Alma Della Rangel.

Though each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for educational or occupational opportunities or for the opportunity to offer their families a better life, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation, and by seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, they can practice whatever religion they choose to practice, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

On July 4, 2008, we will welcome these newly naturalized citizens to enjoy the same freedoms and liberties that all Americans take pride in and cherish. They, too, will be American citizens, and they, too, will be guaranteed the inalienable rights of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. These individuals, representing many nations throughout the world, will be called upon to declare their allegiance to the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals, who will become citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2008, the day of our Nation's independence. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

HONORING MR. BLACKSTONE
DILWORTH

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Blackstone Dilworth in recognition of his being named the 2008 Laredo Business Person of the Year by the Laredo Chamber of Commerce on June 26, 2008. This award recognizes his remarkable dedication to the city of Laredo as a business entrepreneur.

McMullen County is where it all began for Mr. Dilworth, where he was called upon to oversee his family's ranching, oil, and gas operations in the mid 1970s. He managed over 50,000 acres spread over four south Texas counties, and his land was often used for commercial hunting operations. In 1983, Mr. Dilworth went on to found Towers of Texas, a communication tower leasing company. He focused his communication business on the digital cell phone tower market in the late 1990s, enabling the construction of over 500 tower sites across Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

Along with the expansion of his tower business, Mr. Dilworth planned and executed the development of a family ranch in north Laredo. The relatively new addition to Laredo has already created a solid reputation for itself, boasting of industrial, commercial, and residential development. From the beginning of

Mr. Dilworth's ownership of the San Isidro ranch, he has tried to develop a quality place to live and work for Laredoans. Toward that end, he donated over 120 acres of land for Loop 20 as well as for the extension of McPherson Road to connect to the Loop. In the years following, the land for the United Day School was donated by the Dilworth family. The land for the fire station north of the Loop on McPherson was also donated to the city. Mr. Dilworth's newest venture in the business world is in the hospitality industry, with addition of the new Best Western Motel on the corner of Sandia Drive and Loop 20.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the hard work and dedication of Mr. Blackstone Dilworth to the city of Laredo, to his wife, Frances, and to his family. He is a truly deserving recipient of the 2008 Laredo Business Person of the Year by the Laredo Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING DR. ALVIN R. LEONARD

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Alvin R. Leonard. We lost this kind spirit and community leader on April 20, 2008. A remarkable trailblazer and humanitarian, Dr. Leonard lived a full and vibrant 90 years, during which he transformed our community immeasurably. Although his presence will be sorely missed, there is no doubt that his legacy will continue far into the future.

Dr. Alvin R. Leonard was a respected physician and community activist who used his talents and intelligence to serve those most in need in our community. Nearly 40 years ago, he helped found the Berkeley Free Clinic in my congressional district. Dr. Leonard then dedicated the remainder of his life to making sure people were given the opportunity to achieve and maintain good health. For Dr. Leonard, this was especially important for those who faced economic hardships or strenuous life circumstances.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Dr. Leonard served as the director of public health for the City of Berkeley, California. Dr. Leonard truly fulfilled his role as a public servant, introducing initiatives which championed those most in need regardless of the opposition or skepticism he faced from contemporaries. An example of his foresight is the seat-belt campaign he launched to encourage people to buy the safety devices and install them in their cars—long before national legislation mandated that auto manufacturers build cars equipped with them.

One of his greatest characteristics, noted by his family and friends, was his sense of humor. Dr. Leonard clearly knew the importance of love, camaraderie, community building, and maintaining a youthful spirit in the pursuit of both health and social justice. During his tenure as public health director, Dr. Leonard succeeded in persuading department employees to run up and down the stairs for exercise, convinced many to quit smoking, and always urged people to take their health both seriously and personally by giving up bad habits and encouraging lifestyle changes.

Dr. Alvin Leonard was an exceptionally vibrant and creative person whose accomplishments spanned decades where he personally impacted the lives of those around him. He documented pesticide poisoning among farm workers in the 1940s, created statewide programs to control high-blood pressure among specific ethnic groups and examined the health effects of electromagnetic fields. Perhaps most notably, in 1969 Dr. Leonard helped to establish the Berkeley Free Clinic.

Dr. Leonard was a pioneer and champion of our most vulnerable community members. Although the Greater Bay Area is one of the most diverse and innovative regions in the Nation, it also faces many challenges including homelessness, poverty, and health inequities. Dr. Leonard's compassion for those less fortunate motivated him to create a "street medicine" clinic.

The Berkeley Free Clinic found a permanent home in the Berkeley community, one of the Nation's epicenters for social justice advocacy. The clinic services our neighbors who are in the most dire economic need by providing them with a right that should be universal—the right to health care. Essential to Dr. Leonard's personal convictions and vision are the compassion and personal care shown to residents of my district who seek assistance from the clinic.

In its 40-year tenure, the clinic has served thousands of people, and today it is a strong pillar of hope for many in my district.

Although Dr. Leonard formally retired in 1984, he continued public health consulting until his own health no longer permitted it during this past year.

Dr. Leonard's legacy will certainly live on through the lives of all who were fortunate enough to know him. His contributions to our society were so great that his positive influence will continue on even through those who were never able to meet him.

Today, California's Ninth Congressional District salutes and honors Dr. Alvin R. Leonard. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, especially his wife of 65 years, Pearl, and his daughters Barbara and Cathy. May his soul rest in peace.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
RICHARD DARMANIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Richard Darmanian of Fresno, California, who recently passed away at 81 years of age. He leaves behind his best friend and loving wife of 59 years, Armon, six children, and several grandchildren.

Mr. Darmanian was born on November 21, 1926, in Sacramento, California, but was raised in the Central Valley. As a youngster, he lived on a farm where his passion for farming came to life.

Upon graduation from Caruthers High School he attended Fresno State College and earned his B.A. degree in history and a master's degree in guidance and counseling.

Upon graduating from Fresno State in 1952, Mr. Darmanian began his teaching career at Roosevelt High School, where he taught mathematics, history and government. Mr.

Darmanian was also counselor and dean of the boys at Roosevelt High School. In 1959 he purchased a small farm in the Sunnyside area, where he built a home and raised a family for many years.

In 1969 he became the assistant principal at Edison High School and then moved on to become the principal in 1972. He was also the principal at Hoover High School, and he served as district administrator in the Instruction Division from 1984 until 1988, where he was responsible for all the Fresno Unified School District's high schools.

Mr. Darmanian not only had a passion for education but also for his Armenian community where he was both very active and an influential member. In 1950, he became a member of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, ARF, in which he served several terms as a member of the Regional Executive Committee and the Central Executive Committee. From 1952 to 1970 he served as regional secretary of the American Committee for the Independence of Armenia, Armenian National Committee. Also, as one of the founding members of the Armenian Community School that opened its doors in 1976, he served as chairman of the board of education for 6 years.

His strong values and community ties led him to serve as a long-time member of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Board of Trustees, as well as a member of the Executive Council of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America, where he was appointed to the Education Council of the Armenian Schools under the jurisdiction of Western Prelacy during the period of 1990 and 1994. He was also a member of the California State University Fresno Armenian Studies Advisory Board.

Richard enjoyed the simple things in life and loved to be surrounded by his family, friends and colleagues from the Armenian community. He was especially proud to see the younger Armenian generation alongside with him engaged in activities that were dear to his heart. Those who were close to him are better people today thanks to his influence on their lives.

It goes without saying that Mr. Richard Darmanian was an honorable man with a commitment to family, friends and the Armenian community that will forever live in the lives of the people he so graciously touched. His passion for family, education, and the Armenian culture will be remembered by all who knew him. I am honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man who will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was delayed in reaching the floor and missed rollcall vote No. 441. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

STATEMENT HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINDORO "CUT"

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the centennial anniversary of the completion of the Mindoro "Cut" and its addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Mindoro Cut is a perfect example of the ingenuity of rural Wisconsin residents. When the need arose to market perishable dairy products from the countryside to the local creamery, neighbors and families came together and surveyed a route through the region's rugged terrain.

From 1907 and into 1908, workers dug and hacked through hard rock with little technology outside of wheelbarrows and hand tools and a good strong back. Digging 74 feet deep, 25 feet wide and 86 feet long, the Mindoro Cut is the deepest of its kind still remaining in America.

Eventually, about 14,000 cubic feet of rock would be removed. Although they initially assumed that the hilltop ridge was made of sandstone and dirt, cutters found hard rock just under the surface.

The Mindoro Cut is still in use today. From its creation in 1908, the "Cut" has more than served its original purpose. Today, tourists and visitors travel from across the country to marvel at the scenic views while they drive the winding highway through this man-made historical landmark.

Today I pay tribute to the workers who undertook this great endeavor and to the community of Mindoro for honoring their efforts. With its natural beauty and continued usefulness, the Mindoro Cut is a link to our region's history and people.

EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE TITLE IX

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support of the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, introduced by Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink.

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any programs or activity receiving federal financial assistance," states the Title IX Law of 1972. Passed by Congress, the act prohibits discrimination against girls and women in federally funded education, including athletic programs. Many controversies arose from the bill. It was protested that boy's sports would suffer if women's sports became equally funded. Despite all the difficulties, the newly enacted law created numerous opportunities for girls and women in many fields, such as science or math, health care, school bands, cheerleaders, clubs and athletics. Because of Title IX, many young women gained a chance to receive scholarships and opportunity for higher education.

The Title IX Law greatly improved the lives of females and will continue to affect women for years to come. Title IX has influenced many areas of education, giving the possibility for women to become lawyers, scientists, economists, politicians, doctors. Even at the present time gender equity is still an issue. By protecting and supporting Title IX, we can ensure full and equal educational opportunities for all people pursuing their education.

CONGRATULATING MEGHAN VITTRUP FOR HER APPOINTMENT AS UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYSTEM STUDENT REGENT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Meghan Vittrup, who will be sworn in today as the Student Regent for the University of North Texas System. Appointed by the governor of Texas, the student regent serves as a member of the University's Board of Regents, which governs the University of North Texas, the UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth, and the UNT Dallas Campus. Meghan will hold a one-year term, and she is charged with representing the interests of students as well as the interests of the State of Texas and the university system. The student regent is a very important position within the UNT system, and I am honored to recognize such an outstanding individual.

At UNT, Meghan is pursuing a degree in journalism, with a double minor in political science and Spanish. Additionally, she has been director of internal operations for the Student Government Association, and vice president of Eagle Angels, an on-campus organization. This summer, Meghan is working at the Pentagon as an intern writer for American Foreign Press Services, (AFPS), in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense. AFPS provides the news content for the official Department of Defense website.

As an alumnus of UNT, it makes me especially proud to see a leader from within the student body involved in such an important role as a Member of the Board of Regents. It is encouraging to see current students taking such an active role in governing the school. It is because of dedicated individuals like Meghan that the University of North Texas continues to shine as one of the leading universities of Texas.

Again, I commend Meghan for her outstanding accomplishment. Her appointment is well deserved, and I am confident that the UNT system will benefit from her involvement. I am proud to represent Meghan in the 26th District of Texas.

HONORING THE INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WILDOMAR, CA ON JULY 1, 2008

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the citizens of the City of

Wildomar on their official incorporation as a city on July 1, 2008. Located in southwest Riverside County within the 49th Congressional District, Wildomar stands to be the 456th city in the great state of California. I commend the citizens of Wildomar for their decision to take the responsibility of self governance by utilizing the fundamental principles of democracy, a tradition that goes back to the founding days of our nation.

Established as a community in 1891, Wildomar has a long and rich history in California. The three founders constructed the name "Wildomar" from their first names, "Wil" from William Collier, "Do" from Donald Graham and "Mar" from Margaret Collier. Once a common stop for the Pony Express on the Butterfield Stage route, Wildomar provided a much needed break for the express riders. Thanks to the establishment of a rail line and stop at Wildomar, the village has continued to grow throughout the last century.

Today, the area of Wildomar consists of many custom built homes set on large ranches and communities along the hillsides with sweeping views of the valley. Wildomar remains a relaxing and naturally beautiful area of California. Wildomar is home to 27,000 people, many of them first time home buyers and long time residents.

On February 2, 2008, the citizens of Wildomar voted to incorporate the city, while at the same time electing the leaders that will set the standards for future growth and stability in a rich area of California. It is my honor to recognize the first city council of Wildomar: Council Members Ms. Sheryl Ade, Mr. Bob Cashman, Mr. Scott Farnam, Ms. Bridgette Moore, and Ms. Marsha Swanson. I look forward to working with the new council on issues important to their new and growing community.

As the Representative of the 49th Congressional District of California in the United States House of Representatives, I wish the new city of Wildomar great success as it begins the next chapter of Wildomar's storied history.

COMMENDING THE UNITED STATE'S LONGSTANDING RELATIONSHIP WITH SWAZILAND

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, as a proud co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Swaziland, I rise today to educate my colleagues about the history of Swaziland and strong but unfortunately too often overlooked relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Swaziland.

The Swazi nation has a long and rich history going back to the 16th century when, according to tradition, the Swazi people migrated south from what is now Mozambique. Following a series of conflicts with people living in the area around modern day Maputo, Mozambique, the Swazi people settled in northern Zululand—part of present day South Africa—in about 1750. Unable to resist the growing power of the Zulu nation in the region, the Swazis moved gradually northward in the 1800s and established themselves in the area of modern Swaziland. From 1894 to 1902

South Africa administered Swazi interests with the British assuming control of the country in 1902. On September 6, 1968, the Kingdom of Swaziland became officially independent from the British crown.

Today, Swaziland is a full fledged member of the United Nations, the African Union, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and Southern African Development Community (SADC). Ten accredited ambassadors or honorary consuls are resident in the country and Swaziland maintains diplomatic missions in Brussels, Copenhagen, Kuala Lumpur, London, Maputo, Nairobi, Pretoria, Taipei, the United Nations, and Washington, D.C.

The United States has maintained good bilateral relations since the kingdom became independent in 1968 and these good ties have developed substantially over the years through talks of trade and assistance to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic that plagues the Kingdom.

Approximately five years ago, the United States began negotiations to launch a Free Trade Agreement with the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) made up of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. While the negotiations are currently on hold, the United States is still engaged in cooperative efforts to launch a program to intensify the trade and investment relationship in preparation for a Free Trade Agreement that would eventually eliminate tariffs, reduce non-tariff barriers, liberalize service trade, protect intellectual property rights, and provide technical assistance to help the five African nations, including Swaziland. To compound these future goals, the U.S. supports small enterprise development, education, military training, and development of institutions and human resources, and agricultural.

In addition to promoting economic reform and improved industrial relations, the United States has worked closely with many organizations within Swaziland, and through U.S. agencies, to develop HIV/AIDS initiatives and programs. The U.S. is also the largest bilateral donor to the Global Fund, Swaziland's principal HIV/AIDS funding source. Through this source, many Swaziland groups such as the Hope House, Anglican United Against HIV/AIDS, World Teach, Salvation Army etc, have received funds to help in the scourge against AIDS. As exhibited in this year's large reauthorization amount for Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the United States is committed in the fight against AIDS, and will stand alongside any country willing to join us in this serious fight.

The Peace Corps has made substantial contributions to this common fight as well. In 2003, Peace Corps volunteers returned to Swaziland after a nine-year absence. The current Peace Corps program in Swaziland focuses on HIV/AIDS and provides assistance in the execution of two components of the HIV/AIDS national strategy—risk reduction and mitigation of the impact of the disease. Volunteers encourage youth to engage in appropriate behaviors that will reduce the spread of HIV; they work with children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic; and they assist in capacity building for nongovernmental organizations and community-based organizations.

I was also pleased to learn that the U.S. Government sends, on average, four Swazi professionals to the United States each year, from both the public and private sectors, pri-

marily for master's degrees, and about five others for three- to four-week International Visitor programs. Such programs are vital to continuing substantial progress between our two countries' common goals. Given the great potential for progress and development between the United States and Swaziland as outlined above, I am excited to co-chair the Congressional Swaziland Caucus with my friend and colleague Representative EDOLPHUS TOWNS of New York. I urge my colleagues to learn more about the Kingdom of Swaziland and to consider joining the Congressional Swaziland Caucus to help us bolster the long standing ties of friendship between our two great countries.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JUSTICE REVIUS ORTIQUE, JR.

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. JEFFERSON. Madam Speaker, the death of Justice Revius O. Ortique, Jr. this past Sunday marked the passing of a true public servant and a selfless leader. A man of historic firsts, most notably the first African-American member of the Civil District Court in Louisiana, and the first African-American member of Louisiana's Supreme Court, he blazed a trail for others to follow.

He was an outstanding lawyer, winning landmark civil rights cases, and serving as President of the National Bar Association. He served our community as a leader of our Urban League and chair of the New Orleans Aviation Board. He served our Nation, as an army officer and as an appointee to significant federal posts by five different Presidents.

Justice Ortique was a man of community, of faith and of family. He was a man who loved justice and pursued it for himself and others his entire life. Our Nation is better for his service, his leadership and his commitment to his country. We pray God's comfort for his wife of over 60 years, Miriam; his daughter, Rhessa; and her husband, Alden; and his grandchildren, Chip, Heidi, and Todd.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National Institutes of Health, NIH, and call attention to one example of important NIH-supported research being conducted through the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, NIDCD.

Of the five standard senses—sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch—hearing is the one that people are most likely to lose. Approximately 32 million American adults have some form of hearing loss, ranging from mild to profound. Loss of hearing can occur at any age. Between two to three out of every 1,000 infants in this country are born deaf or hard of hearing. This impairment can make it difficult

for a child to learn and adversely affect his or her social and emotional development. Older adults can experience social isolation and depression. Needed supportive care and services can be very costly. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the average lifetime costs for one individual with hearing loss is \$417,000. These costs include direct medical costs such as doctor visits, direct nonmedical expenses such as special education, and indirect costs such as lost wages when a person cannot work due to hearing loss.

With NIH funding, scientists have made tremendous strides during the past decade in understanding the basic biology that underlies hearing loss. Research has already led to the development of the cochlear implant which helps people with certain types of hearing loss understand speech and other sounds. Researchers are also exploring the possibility of regenerating cochlear hair cells in humans; the destruction of these hair cells is the primary factor in most cases of hearing loss. Before, it was assumed that damaged cochlear hair cells could not regenerate in people and other mammals. However, in 2005, NIH-funded research has enabled scientists to identify a gene that may one day enable hair cells to regenerate in mammals.

These findings indicate exciting new possibilities for hearing loss treatments by regenerating the hair cells that transform and send sound waves as electrical signals to the brain, thus making it possible to hear better. In addition, there are new technologies on the horizon for diagnosing hearing loss in infants, thus enabling hearing-impaired children to receive early intervention that can help them develop language skills similar to that of their peers. For example, scientists and clinicians working collaboratively at the Boys Town National Research Hospital with the support of NIDCD developed an approach for testing the hearing mechanism of infants in a matter of minutes in the first days of life. This technology is now in widespread use in many birthing hospitals in the U.S. as part of their universal newborn hearing screening programs.

This is but a few examples of how the research funded with taxpayer dollars at the NIH is improving the health and well-being of all Americans.

CONGRATULATING JAKE MILLER,
RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 HOUSE
FELLOWS PROGRAM FROM THE
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to congratulate Jake Miller, on his acceptance of the 2008 House Fellows Program from the 11th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

The House Fellows Program, an initiative created three years ago by the Office of the Historian, extends the opportunity for high school Social Studies teachers to visit Washington, D.C. in order to learn, first hand, the intricate structure and proceedings of the U.S.

House of Representatives. The program brings together twelve teachers during this week-long workshop, from June 23–27, 2008, selected from Congressional Districts throughout the country.

The purpose of this program is to advance the knowledge of the history and practices of "The People's Branch" so that the selected teachers can bring back an enriched understanding of the legislative process. While the focus of the program is Congress, the Fellows will also participate in conferences at the National Archives, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Library of Congress. These teachers will then be able to take these details they learn back to their students.

Jake Miller is recipient of this honor from our 11th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. He is a resident of Summit Hill and is a teacher at Panther Valley High School located in Lansford. As a teacher at the high school, Jake instructs freshman in U.S. government and seniors in economics. To help aid his professional development as a teacher, Jake tutored students in biology, algebra, and literature and co-founded an organization that assisted in registering and counseling individuals on the voting process. When he is not supporting students in the classroom, he is the faculty advisor for numerous student activities including student council and yearbook.

Additionally, Jake worked for Pennsylvania State Senator John Gordner where Jake coordinated various activities in Senator Gordner's office including issues pertaining to schools within the state. The knowledge gained by this professional experience undoubtedly has a positively impacted on the lessons he passes on to his students in the classroom.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Jake Miller on his acceptance to the competitive House Fellows Program. His commitment to education, the government and his community greatly benefits his own students and those throughout the Pennsylvania educational system.

A TRIBUTE TO MAURICE
CALDERON, A TRUE CIVIC LEADER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a beloved community leader in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, and one of the most caring individuals I have ever known, Maurice Calderon of Banning, California.

The son of a laborer, Maurice Calderon is a shining example of living the American dream to the fullest. He began with night classes at the local community college and an entry-level job as a teller at Redlands Savings and Loan. His long career led him to become the senior vice president for governmental affairs and community development with Arrowhead Credit Union, which he helped to become a community institution.

Even as he was beginning his career, Maurice became the first Hispanic elected official in the city when he won a seat on the Banning Unified School District board in 1967. He served for nine years, becoming a champion

of educational opportunities for the large Hispanic community. He later was elected as a trustee of the Mt. San Jacinto Community College District, serving for another nine years.

His community involvement has been legendary. He has served on the foundation boards for the University of California, Riverside and California State University, San Bernardino. He was a leading member of the Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Inland Empire African American Chamber of Commerce and the Inland Empire Economic Partnership. He served as president of Sinfonia Mexicana and Chairman of the Inland Empire Hispanic Leadership Council.

The list of his commitments to his community is impressive, but it does not do justice to the depth of Maurice's involvement. When he takes an interest in an organization, he brings a warmth and dedication that quickly make Maurice one of the most valued members. He has been a civic-minded connection tying all these groups together and making them all more effective.

He has also helped Arrowhead Credit Union become a force for bringing the American dream to minority and working class neighborhoods throughout the Inland Empire. He led the drive to open the first banking office in the African-American and Hispanic neighborhoods in west San Bernardino. The credit union has been honored for its minority outreach programs.

For his efforts, Maurice has received accolades from numerous cities and the two counties. He has had Banning street named in honor of his family. In 2004, he received the Ohtli Award, the highest recognition granted by the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs to members of the Mexican American Community. He is in the Southern California Native American and Latino Hall of Fame.

His devotion to his children and grandchildren has earned him honors as the Father of the Year. He and wife Dorothy—a community spirit in her own right—have spent 47 years together and in service to the Inland Empire.

Madam Speaker, Maurice Calderon is retiring from his position with the credit union, but will most certainly remain active in his many other roles. I ask you and my colleagues to please join me in thanking him for his decades as a community leader, and wish him and Dorothy well in all their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, June 24, 2008, I was unable to cast my votes on the Motion to Adjourn, the Motion to Adjourn, and H.R. 6331. Had I been present for rollcall No. 441 on the Motion to Adjourn, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 442 on the Motion to Adjourn, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 443 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, I would have voted "aye."

IN MEMORY OF LANCE CORPORAL
ANDREW FRANCIS WHITACRE

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero who served his country bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan. I was deeply saddened to learn of the loss of Lance Corporal Andrew Whitacre of Bryant, Indiana, one of two Marines who perished while conducting combat operations in southwestern Afghanistan's Farah Province on Thursday, June 19, 2008.

Lance Cpl. Whitacre was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Twentynine Palms, California. He was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, where his unit was helping to train the Afghan national police.

The three Marine Corps values are honor, courage and commitment. They make up the bedrock of the character of each individual Marine. These values, handed down from generation to generation, have made the U.S. Marine Corps the most respected and revered fighting force on earth. Lance Cpl. Whitacre personified these values and continued that proud tradition as a Marine who served his country bravely in combat.

An Infantry Assaultman, part of a gun team attached to his infantry unit, Lance Cpl. Whitacre's stock and trade was demolitions, breaching, and firing shoulder-launched assault weapons. As I'm sure his fellow 2/7 Marines who trusted their lives to his special explosives training would tell you, Lance Cpl. Whitacre was an asset to the Marine Corps, the United States and the American way of life. He will be sorely missed by all.

In addition to any posthumous commendations that he might receive because he died in the line of duty, Lance Cpl. Whitacre was the recipient of six awards since he left for Marine Corps boot camp in July 2005. He earned ribbons for combat action and overseas service, including campaign medals for Iraq and Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Lance Cpl. Whitacre. And I wish to express my profound sadness to the community of Bryant, especially his father and stepmother, Ernie and Norma Whitacre; his mother and her fiancée, Susan Nunly and Michael Perry of Dunkirk; his fiancée, Casey McGuire of Parker, Arizona; two brothers, Ryan Murphy of Lancaster, Indiana and Justin Miller of Huntington; one sister, Ashley Williams of Lancaster, Indiana; four grandmothers, Mildred Whitacre of Berne, Caroline Huffman of Kendallville, Beulah Murphy of Bluffton and Mary Scott of Portland; and, many nieces and nephews.

We are all struggling to cope with the tragic loss of this young man, no less because his death follows hard on the heels of another fallen Marine from the Sixth District who was lost less than a week before. Just as Lance Cpl. Whitacre embodied the Marine motto—Semper Fidelis, "Always Faithful"—let us also be faithful to extend a helping hand to his family, friends and community, and remember them in our thoughts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, yesterday I missed one vote, and on Rollcall No. 447 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 6327, the Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2008, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO SANDI WHITE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Sandi White, Secretary of the Greene County, Iowa Sheriff's Office, and to express my appreciation for her nearly 25 years of public service to her community.

In 1984, Sandi took a part time dispatcher position before taking over the full time graveyard shift in 1987. When the secretary's position opened, she jumped at the opportunity and has served in that position until her retirement in February. During her years at the Greene County Sheriff's office, Sandi's hard work has earned her the respect and appreciation of her community.

I commend Sandi White for her many years of loyalty and service to her fellow Iowans. It is an honor to represent Sandi in Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in wishing her a happy and healthy retirement.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICE OF MR. EUGENE BROWN AND THE NAVY ARMED GUARD DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to more than 144,000 members of the Navy Armed Guard who served during World War II. Their service protecting merchant ships from enemy attack and ensuring needed supplies, ammunition, and troops made it across the world's oceans was an effort that helped lead America and her allies to victory. In 1998, Congress enacted Public Law 105-261, Section 534, stating Congress' "appreciation for service during World War I and World War II by members of the Navy assigned onboard merchant ships as the Naval Armed Guard Service." Today, I would also like to specifically mention one of my constituents, Mr. Eugene George Brown, and thank him for his service in the Navy Armed Guard. Following his entry into the Navy from Queens, New York, Mr. Brown served more than 3 years in the Navy Armed Guard, protecting the SS *ROBIN LOCKSLEY*, SS

FLOMAR, and SS *MILL SPRING* in the American, Pacific, Asiatic, European, African, and Middle East theaters of World War II. But most importantly, then Seaman First Class George earned the Victory Medal, with its inscription on the obverse—Freedom From Fear and Want; Freedom of Religion and Speech. Mister Speaker, on behalf of the Congress, I wish to thank Mr. Brown and his more than 144,000 shipmates of the Navy Armed Guard during World War II, and pay tribute to the 1,810 who were killed in action. Their service and sacrifice is recognized and appreciated by a grateful Nation.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF HONOR FLIGHT CHICAGO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Chicago-area veterans of World War II who have arrived today on Honor Flight Chicago to visit the memorial that is dedicated to them, and to celebrate the country that they helped define.

These are the men who proudly wore the uniform of this country, endured the rigors of the war, and fought for our liberty and the freedom of future generations of Americans. While their wartime experiences are as varied as the paths they took following the war, they all remain united in defense of the values that shape our identity as a Nation: love of freedom and respect for human dignity.

Few members of the "greatest generation" spoke about their wartime experiences without evoking painful and emotional recollections of their experiences in World War II, and fewer still asked for recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in welcoming these veterans to our Nation's Capital on this day. It is my privilege to honor each one.

Charles S. Affolter, Fredric S. Appelman, Francis Bailey, Edward Bednarczyk, Larry Black, Delmar Bond, Kenneth J. Chelmowski, John J., Sr. Cooney, Gilbert R. Dumdie, Bernard Edelman, Stanley Ewasiuk, Tom Flanagan, Henry W. Flora, Alfred Galvan, Robert E. Georgen, Melvin R. Gerberding, Lloyd Getz, Joseph Virgil Gray, Donald Harner.

Mark Hashimoto, Loyde A. Henry, Jesse Hidalgo, John Howard, Richard P. Hyland, Raymond Janus, Alvin S. Johnson, Phillip J. Joseph, Harold E. Kalbas, Merritt A. King, Kyril (Carl) Kirk, Norman F. Kosman, Robert P. Krautstrunk, Joseph K. Kulinski, Keith F. Lawler, Sr., John S. Manasse, Dominic Martinucci, Elroy E. Meyer, Robert W. Mitchler, Samuel Mizra.

Nicholas Moorad, Amos Nicholson, Joseph A. Oruzco, Robert L. Palis, James W. Reilly, Melvin Rosenfeld, Gordon R. Schnulle, John I. Shumaker, James R. Taff, Lincoln S. Tamraz, Donald L. Thompson, Peter C. Urbane, Merrill S. Urbane, Sr., Raymond C. Wagner, Edward G. Wagner, John A. Weber, Ernest Westman, Stanley R. Williams, Jr., Armand E. Wormley, John H. Zeilstra.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE AMER-
ICAN GI FORUM ON ITS 60TH AN-
NIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1291, which celebrates the 60th anniversary of one of our country's most prominent veterans and civil rights organizations—the American GI Forum.

Originally founded to assist Hispanic World War II veterans fight discrimination from the VA, the American GI Forum now advocates for numerous additional causes, including voting rights, job training, and better access to education.

This bill is special to me because it also commends the American GI Forum's founder, Dr. Hector P. Garcia, who hails from my hometown of Corpus Christi, TX. Dr. Garcia, himself a distinguished veteran, was one of the early leaders of the Hispanic civil rights movement.

Dr. Garcia served as an alternate ambassador to the United Nations in 1967, was appointed to the United States Commission on Civil Rights in 1968, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the Nation's highest civilian honor—in 1984.

Dr. Garcia grew up in South Texas and hitchhiked 30 miles a day to go to school. He enrolled into the University of Texas Medical School which accepted only one Mexican-American student per year.

In addition to helping Hispanic veterans, Dr. Garcia also led the fight against ending discrimination against Hispanic students and brought attention to the poor conditions of migrant workers.

From working with Presidents on civil rights issues to providing medical services to those who couldn't pay, Dr. Garcia dedicated his life to bettering the lives of all. His legacy, through the American GI Forum, will always live on.

I congratulate the members of the American GI Forum for all their work as a beacon of hope for all veterans and citizens aspiring to improve the lives of those in their community.

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE CITY
OF RIPON, WISCONSIN

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, on March 20, 2008, the City of Ripon, Wisconsin, celebrated the 150th anniversary of its being granted a city charter by the State of Wisconsin in 1858. The sesquicentennial of Ripon's chartering will be officially observed this summer at an annual community celebration called "Riponfest," which attracts thousands of visitors to the city to participate in a weekend of events recognizing everything that is best about this outstanding community in the heart of Wisconsin's 6th Congressional District.

Ripon, of course, is best known as "the Birthplace of the Republican Party." According

to the Wisconsin State Historical Society, "the first mass meeting in this country that definitely and positively cut loose from old parties and advocated a new party under the name Republican" took place on March 20, 1854, in the "Little White School House" in Ripon.

I am pleased that a number of my colleagues have had the opportunity over the years to visit the Little White School House in Ripon. This site, which is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, was recently restored thanks to the generosity of the Jeffris Family Foundation of Janesville, Wisconsin, which provided a challenge grant matched by funds raised by the dedicated and hard-working citizens of Ripon. They recognize the historical significance of this important site and the value of maintaining it so that it may be visited and enjoyed by future generations.

Ripon always has maintained a heritage of active citizenship and has been the home of a number of nationally recognized leaders, including George Peck, nationally beloved author of the Peck's Bad Boy books and Governor of Wisconsin; Harry Selfridge, founder of Selfridge's Department Store in London and the man who revolutionized retail commerce through the creation of the modern department store; Carrie Chapman Catt, a leader of the women's suffrage movement who organized the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution and founded the League of Women Voters; Winifred Edgerton, the first woman in the country to earn a PhD in mathematics; Ben Marcus, whose nationwide empire of cinema complexes, hotels, and restaurants began with the Campus Cinema in Ripon; and Mark Conrad who, when elected mayor of Ripon in 1972 while still attending college, became the youngest mayor in the Nation.

For one hundred and fifty-seven years, Ripon has been the home of Ripon College, a nationally recognized quality liberal arts institution. For over one hundred and fifty years, Ripon has also valued its citizens with entrepreneurial spirit and vision who have given rise to the many businesses that continue to thrive there.

Given its rich history and regional significance, Ripon has been a leader among Wisconsin communities in the preservation of the historic architecture, artifacts, and documentary records related to the city's character and development.

I hope you will all join me in congratulating Ripon, Wisconsin, on the 150th anniversary of its chartering as a city by the State of Wisconsin.

TRIBUTE TO JILL PRUETZ

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa State University primatologist Jill Pruetz on winning a National Geographic Society Emerging Explorer Award for her research on primates in Senegal, Africa.

Jill, who is also an associate professor of anthropology at Iowa State University, received international recognition for performing a study which recorded habitual hunting by Savannah chimpanzees in Senegal, Africa.

She found that apes made spears from twigs and caught prey with them. Jill is currently focused on the chimps' reactions to fire, use of water and general movements and behaviors. During her 7 years of researching in Senegal, Jill has suffered from malaria and avoided hazards such as poisonous snakes.

Jill's work and research is important to widening the scope of knowledge of different areas and species around the world. Without Jill's individual efforts, science would be left behind in understanding the environment's role in the adaptations of Earth's species.

I commend Jill Pruetz for all her hard work and contributions to scientific exploration. I consider it an honor to represent Jill in Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in wishing her future success and happiness as she continues her work in primatology.

COMMENDING THE WOOLUM FAM-
ILY OF KNOX COUNTY, KEN-
TUCKY, FOR ITS TRADITION OF
SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, during this time of conflict overseas, the United States has called on her brave men and women in uniform to serve and to sacrifice. And they have answered this call—with honor, with immeasurable courage and with distinction. I rise today to recognize the Woolum Family, hailing from my region of southern and eastern Kentucky, for their dedication and decorated service to our great Nation.

David and Ruby Woolum, of Artemus, Kentucky, devoted their lives to imparting in their 12 children love of God, love of family, and love of country. Today, I am incredibly honored to share with you that seven of their nine sons, and four of their grandchildren, have taken these valuable lessons to heart and in turn dedicated their lives to military service. Their representation of both Kentucky and the United States is exemplary.

David and Ruby's sons David and Robert served valiantly in the Marine Corps; in fact, David returned from his second tour in Vietnam a decorated veteran and a recipient of a Purple Heart. Their brothers—Charles, Richard and Keith—spent their military careers in the Air Force, while Joseph and Terry Woolum served bravely in the Army. Terry is currently in his 33rd year of military service, as a member of the National Guard. The support of their siblings Priscilla, Ellen, Eric, and James never wavered.

Even more impressive is that their collective spirit of patriotism has trickled down to a younger generation of Woolums, who continue to represent southeast Kentucky with pride: David and Ruby's grandchildren Joseph, Robert, Jason and Jolene are currently serving in the Marine Corps, Army, National Guard and Air Force, respectively.

Thankfully these 11 closely knit men and young woman have returned safely from their many overseas tours of duty, including multiple deployments to such destinations as Vietnam, Germany, France, and recently, Iraq. I

believe we have a special duty to honor these brave soldiers, airmen, marines and guardsmen for their outstanding service to our country and, in particular, to recognize the important role of David and Ruby Woolum in raising their children with a desire to serve our country and support one another in this noble endeavor.

When David Woolum passed away in November 2002, he and Ruby had been married for 64 years. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and honoring the patriotism of this couple, which should serve as an example to American families for centuries to come.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today Congress is yet again faced with the choice of approving the Bush administration's unconstitutional expansion of executive branch authority in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA, or defending the Constitution and protecting the civil liberties of Americans. The choice could not be more clear and consequences more grave.

Passing this legislation today will be the enduring legacy of the Bush administration. It will provide the Congressional seal of approval for years of the White House's stonewalling on Congressional oversight, eroding Congress's authority, and violating the Constitution. A vote in favor of H.R. 6304, the FISA Amendments Act, is a vote for the Bush administration's expansive interpretation of executive power and against the Constitution. That's why I must oppose this legislation.

H.R. 6304 permits mass, untargeted surveillance of all phone and email conversations entering or leaving the U.S. without basic, let alone adequate, protections for Americans' civil liberties. Communications of millions of Americans will be swept up because of reduced reverse targeting protections and minimized court oversight. This bill enables the Government to walk through an enormous loophole by suspending prior court review of intelligence surveillance applications at their discretion. Additionally, there are no safeguards to protect Americans whose information is unintentionally obtained. H.R. 6304 dispenses with real oversight by the court, a requirement fundamental to upholding the Constitution.

Furthermore, this legislation provides nothing less than de facto immunity for telecommunications companies that broke the law. District courts will be forced to dismiss pending cases if they receive a certification from the Attorney General that telecommunications companies were asked to turn over their customers' records. There is no determination if the request was legal. No due process. No penalty. No accountability. Exactly what the Bush administration wanted all along.

We should never sacrifice commitment to the rule of law and our system of checks and balances for broad, unbridled power to suspend Americans' civil liberties at will. Unfortunately, this new FISA bill does just that. Elect-

ed officials have a solemn responsibility to defend our country, and, like my colleagues, I support a modernization of our intelligence laws. But being asked to support either our intelligence community or protecting civil liberties is a false and dangerous dichotomy. Benjamin Franklin once wrote that, "those who would trade liberty for some temporary security, deserve neither liberty nor security." With this bill, I believe we have proven him right.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING A NATIONAL DYSPHAGIA AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 195, which would designate June 2008 as National Dysphagia Awareness Month.

Dysphagia is a condition that affects nearly 15 million Americans. According to the NIH, people with dysphagia have difficulty swallowing and may also experience pain while swallowing.

Some people may be completely unable to swallow or may have trouble swallowing liquids, foods, or saliva. Eating then becomes a challenge. Often, dysphagia makes it difficult to take in enough calories and fluids to nourish the body.

The CDC estimates that 1,000 people in the United States annually are diagnosed with dysphagia and 60,000 Americans die from complications from this condition every year.

However, many people have never heard of dysphagia and unfortunately most cases of dysphagia go unreported.

Designating June 2008 as National Dysphagia Awareness Month will help raise awareness and understanding of dysphagia.

I want to thank Mr. WAMP for sponsoring this legislation and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

FEDERAL PRICE GOUGING PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H.R. 6346, also known as the Federal Price-gouging Prevention Act. I join my other colleagues from both sides of the aisle and American consumers to address the issue of price gouging of gasoline and other fuels.

This bill has received widespread support for several reasons. First, the bill gives the Federal Trade Commission the ability to investigate and punish companies that falsely inflate energy prices. It is unacceptable for energy companies to artificially raise prices. This bill serves to address these crimes and protect the American people.

Second, this bill will allow for the Justice Department to collect criminal penalties and

impose jail time during a state of national emergency on those who are found guilty of price-gouging. Most importantly, penalties collected from price-gouging companies will be forwarded to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, to help families pay for their heating and air-conditioning bills.

At this time, 28 states have passed legislation against price-gouging. More laws are needed at both the state and local levels to ensure that those who are responsible for artificially raising energy prices are investigated and punished.

I urge other colleagues to support this bill. I applaud the work done by to protect the American people from energy price-gouging.

TRIBUTE TO NEW HAMPTON TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trinity Lutheran Church of New Hampton, Iowa, on celebrating their 50th anniversary as a congregation.

On July 31, 1958, the German parishioners of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and the Norwegian parishioners of St. Olaf's Lutheran Church joined together as Trinity Lutheran Church. St. John Lutheran Church of Lawler, Iowa became the third church to join Trinity Lutheran in 1964. The St. John Lutheran Churches in Ionia and Boyd are also now a part of the Trinity family.

The original St. Paul church cost \$19,000 to build. While growing as a congregation, the Trinity family has also faced adversity in dealing with damaging fires at the church in 1973 and 2001. Both times the congregation came together and built their faith community even stronger. Through new contemporary services, Trinity's methods of conducting their services have changed with society, but its message has remained steadfast.

Trinity Lutheran Church of New Hampton is dedicated to benefiting the lives of those in New Hampton and the surrounding rural areas, and for this I offer Trinity my utmost congratulations and thanks on a prosperous history. It is an honor to represent all the parishioners of Trinity Lutheran and the current pastor Reverend Kevin Frey in the United States Congress, and I wish them continued success, grace, peace and celebration as a community.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID PARENTAL LEAVE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act.

Currently, about 46 percent of private employers provide paid parental leave to their employees, but federal workers have no such guarantee. As a Member of the House Education and Labor Committee and a representative of many federal workers, this concerns

me. Federal workers, like those in the private sector, should also have the option of adopting or giving birth to their own child without having to go 12 weeks without a paycheck, which few families in our country can afford to do.

Study after study shows that enabling working mothers and fathers to care for and bond with newly-adopted children and newborns lays the foundation for healthy child development and a safer, brighter future for our Nation. Paid leave makes it possible for workers to take time off without having to worry about a paycheck.

Additionally, paid parental leave will help the federal government recruit and retain dedicated and talented workers. As the federal workforce ages, our government will be looking for new, younger workers. In order to attract and retain the best workers, federal benefits must be competitive.

This paid leave would also save the government money by reducing turnover and avoiding costs associated with replacing and training new workers, which is approximately 25 percent of one worker's salary, making turnover-related costs among the most significant employer expenses.

The Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act will provide federal workers who qualify for leave under the Family Medical Leave Act, FMLA, which guarantees 12 weeks of unpaid leave, with four weeks of full pay for the adoption or birth of a new child, allowing parents to care for their newborns while continuing to make ends meet.

This legislation takes a strong step toward creating a more family-friendly workplace in the United States. Hopefully, in my lifetime I will see federal paid sick and parental leave for every worker in every industry in the United States. I look forward to working with my colleagues to achieve this goal. As a father who spends every week away from his family serving here in the U.S. Congress, I understand how hard it is not to be with loved ones and to miss important events in their lives because of one's job.

I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation and show American workers that we are committed to helping them balance their work and home responsibilities.

EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, ensuring that local law enforcement officials are provided with the resources they need to effectively protect our communities requires nothing less than our sustained commitment and dedication. That's why I am proud to support of H.R. 3546, the Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant, JAG, Reauthorization Act.

The Byrne-JAG program provides State and local governments with the tools necessary to prevent and control crime while strengthening our criminal justice system. These grants help fund law enforcement programs targeting school violence, hate crimes, and victims of

violent crimes. Additionally, Byrne-JAG grants enable state, regional, and local agencies to confront and overcome the threats posed by drug trafficking through providing essential funding to improve drug enforcement and treatment programs. By using these grants to develop multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, law enforcement officials from around the country have been able to foster institutional collaboration built on their shared expertise and training.

Last year, the City of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County in my Congressional District were fortunate enough to receive Byrne-JAG grants, which went to support programs designed to assist in the prevention of drug use, treat non-violent offenders, and improve the effectiveness of our criminal justice system. That's why I'm a cosponsor of H.R. 3546, which would reauthorize the Byrne-JAG program until 2012. Despite the Bush Administration's efforts to eliminate funding for this important program, I commend the Democratic Leadership for demonstrating their commitment to full funding for Byrne-JAG by bringing this legislation to the Floor.

Local law enforcement officials depend on Byrne-JAG grants to invest in strategies that combat crime and drugs. Without these resources, State and local law enforcement cannot take the steps they need to protect our families and our country's most precious resources, our children and young adults, from violence and drug abuse. Madam Speaker, it's our responsibility to make certain these brave men and women have the support necessary to perform their jobs. It's the least we can do.

TRIBUTE TO IOWA CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRITONS WRESTLING TEAM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great achievement by the Iowa Central Community College Tritons wrestling team. This year Iowa Central won their third straight National Junior College Athletic Association, NJCAA, national championship.

Iowa Central is only the third junior college to ever win three straight national titles. At 125 pounds, Terrance Young earned an individual national title. David Greenwald and Brad Lower were runner-ups in their respective weight classes. Matt Burns, Joe Johnson, Carrington Banks and Kevin Kelly placed third, fourth, eighth and eighth in their respective weight classes. Carrington Banks, Brian Drake, David Greenwald, Kevin Kelly, Joe Johnson and Terrance Young were all named academic All-Americans as well.

The example set by these young men and their coach, Luke Moffitt, demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and determination. They scored victories on the mat as well as in the classroom. Their triumph in both arenas is an honor that we all can admire and be proud of.

I am honored to represent Iowa Central Community College and their students, staff, faculty, wrestling team and their coaches in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating the

Tritons on their third straight national championship and wishing all the young men continued success in their future endeavors.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVISTS DEBT RELIEF ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4044, the National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008, a bill I am proud to have authored. Since September 11, 2008, more than 460,000 Reservists and members of the National Guard have been called to active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. These courageous men and women have selflessly left their families and their jobs to fight for our country on the battlefield, often with little or no notice and no time to prepare for the financial challenges that their deployments will present.

In April 2005, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Act made it harder for individuals to discharge their debts in bankruptcy. That legislation requires debtors who file for bankruptcy to submit to a means test that assesses their eligibility for bankruptcy protection. H.R. 4044 would exempt members of the National Guard and Reserves facing bankruptcy as a result of their service from that means test.

When the changes to bankruptcy law were made, Congress understood the importance of exempting disabled veterans whose debts were incurred while they were on active duty from means testing. However, the men and women of the National Guard and Reserves were left out; their sacrifice was disregarded. That is why I introduced this legislation with my friend and colleague Congressman DANA ROHRBACHER. Those heroes returning from active service in the Guard and Reserves deserve the same flexibility.

H.R. 4044 allows members of the National Guard and Reservists to file for Chapter 7 without the added paperwork burden and obstacles of the means test. The bill would apply to our citizen soldiers who have served in the armed forces for more than 90 days since 9/11 and would grant them an exemption from the test for up to a year and a half after they return home. It also requires a Government Accountability Office report which will help us quantify the hardships our veterans face when they return home by tracking how many apply for bankruptcy protection.

Many members of the Guard and Reserves leave for the war thinking they will only be deployed for 6 to 12 months and end up getting their tours involuntarily extended. One quarter of those soldiers have been deployed more than once. There is almost no way that they can anticipate or prepare for that extension of their service financially.

According to the National Guard, forty percent of Reservists and members of the National Guard lose money when they leave their civilian jobs for active duty. This is especially true for servicemembers who own and operate small businesses who put their businesses on hold while they serve thousands of miles away.

Now Reservists and National Guardsmen and women are coming home to a weak economy and record unemployment levels. Eighteen percent of recently separated servicemembers are currently unemployed. They are disproportionately feeling the pinch of record gas prices, housing foreclosures, and food costs.

We have all heard from constituent servicemembers who have returned home to find their families in financial disarray. Many reservists took a pay cut from their regular jobs to serve overseas; others find that when they are discharged, if they can find work, they are returning home to lower salaries—in many instances, lower than their combat pay. Twenty five percent of servicemembers returning from Iraq or Afghanistan earn less than \$25,000 a year. Some veterans are driven to homelessness—the VA estimates that there are 1,500 homeless veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The means test has a particularly adverse impact on servicemembers. Most servicemembers receive higher compensation in the form of combat pay and have fewer expenses while serving abroad, but upon leaving service they face lower incomes and higher expenses. Because the means test factors in a person's income and expenses for the six-month period preceding the bankruptcy filing, a veteran's income is artificially inflated and expenses are inaccurately low. As a result, veterans risk having their chapter 7 case dismissed and being forced to file under the stricter chapter 13.

The men and women of the National Guard and Reserves have risked their lives to protect us. If servicemembers, through no fault of their own, end up in bankruptcy, they deserve protection from Congress. This bill brings us one step closer to providing them with financial relief when they come home from their service.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to Chairman CONYERS and Subcommittee Chairwoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ for their commitment to and work on this bill and to the minority Committee Members for working with us to find a compromise and get this bill on the floor today. And again, I thank my colleague Congressman ROHRBACHER, whose passion and persistence on this issue have made him a wonderful ally.

EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3546, a bill to authorize funding for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels—\$1.095 billion—through 2012. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I know the critical importance of Byrne-JAG funding to law enforcement, and especially drug task forces, throughout the United States. Many of us remain deeply disappointed that the program's FY 2008 appropriation was cut so drastically at the end of last year.

Byrne JAG provides needed funding to drug task forces throughout my district. For exam-

ple, the Allen County Drug Task Force relies on this program's funding to continue its work with the FBI, DEA and ATF targeting drug traffickers. As does the Indiana Multi-Agency Group Enforcement (IMAGE), a drug-enforcement team combining select law enforcement from DeKalb, Noble, Steuben, and LaGrange counties. In 2006 alone, IMAGE worked on 101 drug and prostitution cases, and seized illegal drugs valued at nearly \$3 million. These results speak for themselves, and they demonstrate how critical it is to the safety of Hoosiers in northeast Indiana, as well as Americans nationwide, that the Byrne JAG program is fully-funded.

I was very upset when Congress cut Byrne-JAG funding by 67 percent last December in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. If the House doesn't act quickly to restore this key funding source, law enforcement programs throughout the Nation will certainly be reduced—or eliminated—likely reversing hard-won gains that have been made over the years at the local level.

We have an opportunity with the FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriations bill to correct that mistake, and I strongly urge the House to accept the Senate language restoring Byrne-JAG funding for the current fiscal year. This measure is necessary in order for local law enforcement agencies to continue their constant pursuit of criminals, especially drug dealers. We will be taking a major step backward if we don't accept the Senate's proposal. The long-term effects of such a move are dangerous.

As we enter the general appropriations season for next fiscal year, I also urge the Appropriations Committee, and the House in general, to fully fund this program in FY 2009. The Byrne JAG program is a proven success that strongly deserves reauthorization, and I urge passage today of H.R. 3546.

GOSPEL MUSIC HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express support for a resolution designating September as Gospel Music Heritage Month. This resolution recognizes the legacy of gospel music for its invaluable and longstanding contributions to the musical traditions of the United States.

Let me begin by thanking Representative JACKSON-LEE of Texas, the Recording Academy, and the Gospel Music Channel for all of their support to pay homage to this influential and inspirational genre of music. Gospel music is truly an American classic that's gone far too long without being recognized for the significant impact it's made on our culture.

Whether it's swaying with the choirs, tapping along with the quartets, or simply raising hands to the rhythm of soul-stirring crooners, gospel music is a cornerstone of the American musical tradition. Gospel music is more than the sounds that resonate in congregations on Sundays; it's the musical thread that has woven its influence throughout religious and secular musical genres including rock and roll, country, and rhythm and blues. From Ray Charles and Elvis Presley to Aretha Franklin

and Dolly Parton, many of America's greatest recording artists emerged through the historical art form of gospel.

While gospel may have its roots based in the African-American traditions of Negro spirituals, its reach has spanned not only across the ages, but it has grown beyond its established audience to achieve popular culture and historic relevance across the globe. With its use of choral singing in unison and harmony, Gospel has emerged as a distinct category of popular song, with its own supporting publishing and recording firms, and performers appearing in sell-out concerts nationwide.

This resolution allows Members of Congress to celebrate gospel's rich heritage and honor musical pioneers from the likes of Mahalia Jackson and Sandi Patty, and the Hawkins Family, very own constituents: Tramaine, Edwin and Walter Hawkins. Additionally, it allows Members of Congress to pay tribute to this important American legacy and the role it plays in the lives of millions.

Since Thomas Dorsey first stretched the boundaries to create gospel music, choirs, quartets, and powerful vocalists have been singing this same song, albeit in different styles and places. Gospel is here to stay, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure to honor the gospel community, and create a month designated to annually acknowledge the "good news" it represents.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of HR 6331. This important piece of legislation will delay the physician payment cut, which is scheduled to go into effect on July 1.

It has been over a decade since the physician fee schedule was put in place to help control increases in Medicare payments to physicians.

The Medicare program reimburses physicians who treat seniors using a complex formula that is based on a number of factors.

Unfortunately, payments for physician services matched the SGR and expenditure targets for only the first 5 years.

Since then, the actual expenditures have exceeded the target by so much that the system is no longer realistic.

As we have learned in recent years the formula reduces payments to physicians when the economy goes down—a time when doctors are least able to absorb the extra costs.

These payment reductions have caused many physicians to hold off on accepting new Medicare patients, withdraw from the program, or retire altogether.

In areas like mine that rely heavily on Medicare and Medicaid, we probably will not be in a situation where doctors stop taking Medicare.

Rather, we will see access problems created by attrition—where the gap created by physician retirements is not filled by new crops of doctors willing to take Medicare patients.

If we reach that point, Medicare will have failed in its mission to provide equality in access to health care for our senior citizens.

Twice we have tried to pass legislation to address the physician payment cut and these bills were vetoed twice by the President.

H.R. 6331 will delay by 18 months the 10.6% physician pay-cut in Medicare reimbursement rates due to take effect July 1 and will give physicians a 1.1 % payment update for 2009.

This bill is not a long term solution to the physician payment and SGR problem, but it does give Congress time to revamp the program.

CREDIT UNION, BANK, AND
THRIFT REGULATORY RELIEF
ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6312, The Credit Union, Bank, and Thrift Regulatory Relief Act of 2008. I am particularly pleased to speak in favor of this legislation because I have always been a strong supporter of credit unions. These institutions have been effective in pursuit of their mission to serve people of modest means and underserved communities, both of which characterize much of my district. Regulatory improvement in this industry is long overdue and I want to thank Mr. KANJORSKI and Mr. MOORE for their work on this bill.

Credit union regulatory relief is especially urgent in light of the nation's current financial crisis. We are either at the brink of a recession—or already in one—largely because of the crisis in the subprime mortgage market that has led to a wave of foreclosures unlike any since the Great Depression. In significant part, this crisis resulted from certain financial institutions, many of them largely unregulated, peddling dangerous mortgage loan products to borrowers who did not fully understand the risk they were taking on. Meanwhile, the lenders themselves whisked their own risk to the four corners of the earth via securitization and the secondary market. Much of the Financial Services Committee's work in the past year has involved working to enact legislation that prevents this from ever happening again.

Notably, credit unions did not help to create this mess. Indeed, analysis of 2006 home mortgage disclosure data reveals that credit unions were far less likely than other lenders to make subprime loans to low and moderate income households, especially minorities.

So credit unions were not part of the problem. But they can and must be part of the solution. If there is any lesson to be learned from this crisis, it is that low or moderate income households and residents of underserved communities don't just need access to any credit, but rather access to sound and appropriate financial products. Credit unions stand ready to provide such products to more people and more communities, but need Congressional action to do so. Specifically, H.R. 6312 would allow credit unions to extend their services to areas with high unemployment rates and below median incomes that are generally underserved by other depository institutions.

Critically, it would also allow some people who don't belong to a local credit union nonetheless to go to that credit union for short term loans, as an alternative to the exorbitant rates charged by payday lenders. This is progress in achieving the outcome policymakers must pursue in the financial services sector, namely, connecting households of modest means with the soundest financial products and institutions available to them.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN LEE
VANDEWATER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize CPT Lee J. Vandewater of Winterset, Iowa who was honored by the Central Iowa Chapter of the American Red Cross for his heroic efforts serving in the Iowa National Guard overseas, earning him a Bronze Star.

Captain Vandewater served as the 1st Platoon Leader, Company B, 168th Infantry of the Iowa National Guard. While serving overseas, he commanded a nine-vehicle convoy carrying 30 soldiers along the Afghanistan and Pakistan borders. Insurgents ambushed the battalion and Captain Vandewater commanded his team to safety and returned with three other men to successfully rescue four stranded soldiers. For his efforts, Captain Vandewater was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. The Bronze Star is the fourth highest award that the Department of Defense gives for bravery, heroism, and meritorious service. For his service he earned a promotion to Captain and was assigned as Commander, Company A 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry of the Iowa National Guard.

The bravery and sacrifice displayed by Captain Vandewater goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country. I commend CPT Lee J. Vandewater's courageousness and service to our great Nation. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in wishing Captain Vandewater safety and success in his future service.

STOP CHILD ABUSE IN RESIDENTIAL
PROGRAMS FOR TEENS
ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Chairman, I rise today to express my support of the Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2008, introduced by Representative GEORGE MILLER.

The bill H.R. 5876 provides American teenagers with security and safety in residential programs. The passage of the bill is crucial for the American Education System and American society. Many times residential programs

leave teenagers without necessary attention and care, which can lead to abuse, harm and even death of children. It is critical to address this problem now. Through various requirements and changes, The Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs Act will significantly improve residential programs for children. This important legislation will better the lives of many young Americans by making them safer and healthier.

U.S. Government can not allow further abuse and neglect of teenagers in private or public residential programs. Members of Congress must understand how crucial Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act is and must strongly support its enactment. In taking action to enact this proposed legislation today we will send a strong message that this abuse must stop.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT
MONDAVI

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Con. Res. 365, which my fellow co-chair of the Congressional Wine Caucus, MIKE THOMPSON and I introduced in remembrance of a friend and giant in the California and international wine community, Robert Mondavi, who passed away in May of this year.

Robert may most be remembered for his tremendous success in producing and promoting California wines to the international community. After graduating from Stanford, Robert joined his family in running the Charles Krug winery in Napa, and then went on to found the Robert Mondavi Winery in 1966.

His tireless efforts to introduce California wine to the world and compete against established European wines are much of the reason why winemaking in California is now an 18 billion dollar industry—the largest retail wine market in the world. In fact, the United States accounts for 61 percent of wine sold in the world. This would not be possible without the lifetime of hard work by Robert Mondavi.

He was also extremely involved in charitable causes across the country to promote wine, food and the arts.

Robert Mondavi was an inspiration to my own winemaking ventures as I'm sure he was to many boutique winemakers across the country. Such inspiration has led to wine being produced in all 50 States. His innovation, spirit and passion for winemaking will be sorely missed throughout our Nation and the world.

RECOGNIZING HIGH SCHOOL VAL-
EDICTORIANS OF GRADUATING
CLASS OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the achievements of America's high school valedictorians and the graduating class of 2008.

With House Resolution 1229, I know that I capture the sentiment of all Members of the 110th Congress in promoting the importance of intellectual growth and the academic excellence of America's graduating high school students. In my southeast Queens community, New York's Sixth Congressional District, I personally know that great achievements have taking place in the high schools servicing my young constituents. My district's graduating seniors have achieved a major milestone in their educational and social development. With this accomplishment, I now encourage these young adults to take their next major step towards becoming our Nation's future leaders and engaged citizens by entering higher education institutions or by beginning their young careers.

For this graduation celebration, I want to specifically recognize the stellar accomplishments of our Nation's high school Valedictorians. Each year, every high school recognizes an individual student who has risen above his or her fellow students through their consistency of intellectual inquiry, in their demonstration of academic discipline, and their utilization of teacher mentoring. Through their dedication and hard work, these students have attained the position of top academically ranked student within their graduating class and are honored as the "Valedictorian" at their graduation ceremony. Throughout their high school careers, Valedictorians have served as peer role models to fellow high school students by succeeding academically and contributing to community improvement. It is their example that shines clearly to their fellow students and community members, demonstrating the dedication and drive that it takes to become America's future civic, business, and political leaders, and maintaining our Nation's global leadership position through strengthening its economic competitiveness.

During this graduation season, let us not forget that no child achieves alone, but rather it takes an entire community to rear a socially and educationally mature child. Along with our Nation's valedictorians and graduating class, I want to recognize and honor the love, support, and contributions of the parents, community members, teachers, and school administrators, who have provided these students with the resources and guidance needed to achieve. It has been the selfless contributions of these individuals who have nurtured the intellectual growth and rewarded the academic achievements of our Nation's valedictorians and graduating seniors.

In closing, I make the call to all graduating seniors to further their intellectual interests and academic studies by enrolling in universities and postsecondary educational institutions and to continue their social engagement, utilizing their knowledge and skills for the betterment of their communities and the social, cultural, and economic advancement of our great Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUGET SOUND RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Puget Sound Recovery Act of 2008.

With 2,500 miles of shoreline and 2,800 square miles of inland marine waters, Puget Sound is the Nation's second largest estuary. The Sound is a cornerstone of the Pacific Northwest's identity and at the heart of the region's prosperity, supporting a thriving marine and natural resource industry. And it is truly one of America's most spectacular bodies of water, home to more than 200 species of fish, 25 kinds of marine mammals, 100 species of sea birds as well as clams, oysters and shrimp.

But beneath the water's surface and despite its breathtaking natural beauty, Puget Sound is sick. Scientists have detected low levels of oxygen and increasing concentrations of toxic substances in aquatic animals that live in the Sound. Some of its most iconic resident species—including salmon and orcas—are on the brink of extinction. Up to 70 percent of all its original estuaries and wetlands have disappeared and about 8,700 acres at the bottom of the Sound are dangerously contaminated.

The declining health of Puget Sound threatens the economic and environmental vitality of the Pacific Northwest. Washington State's Governor Chris Gregoire has taken steps at the State Government level to combat this decline by setting up a Puget Sound Partnership. Now it is time for the U.S. Government to match these efforts, with the Environmental Protection Agency taking the lead to create, with the State of Washington, a comprehensive recovery package for Puget Sound.

Already, we have launched a cooperative effort involving all of the local government entities, as well as the State and Federal Governments, to curtail any harmful substances from being introduced into its waters, to change unwise industrial and agricultural practices and to continue our aggressive research into the causes of pollution in the Sound. The Fiscal Year 2008 Interior Appropriations bill included \$20 million for the EPA geographic program to ramp up the Puget Sound work, and earlier this month the Interior Subcommittee which I chair passed a spending bill for fiscal year 2009 that includes an additional \$20 million to implement the program.

The Puget Sound Recovery Act that I am joined by all of my colleagues from around the Puget Sound area in introducing today furthers these efforts by establishing an EPA Puget Sound Office in Washington State that will coordinate action among the many Federal agencies involved in the cleanup, including the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Park Service, the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service within the Department of Agriculture, the United States Geological Survey, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security and Transportation. In addition, this bill authorizes grants to study the causes of the Sound's declining water quality and ways to counter these threats, as well as grants for sewer and stormwater discharge projects.

Madam Speaker, the Federal Government must continue to play a leading role in restoring the health of Puget Sound, and I believe the Puget Sound Recovery Act is fundamental to this effort.

PUGET SOUND RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SECTION-BY-SECTION

Sec. 1. Short Title.

Sec. 2. Findings. Congress finds that Puget Sound is important to the Pacific Northwest's regional identity and industry. Puget Sound's water quality is in decline, which threatens the region's economy. Washington State has taken steps to address the problem. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should create a comprehensive recovery package for Puget Sound and should establish a "Puget Sound Office" in Washington State. Other federal agencies should be involved, including the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Park Service, the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service within the Department of Agriculture, the United States Geological Survey, the Corps of Engineers, the Departments of Commerce, Homeland Security, Defense, and Transportation. The Puget Sound recovery efforts should be included in the President's annual budget. Canada should join in this enhanced effort.

Sec. 3. Puget Sound. This section amends Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) by adding at the end a new section ("Sec. 123. Puget Sound."). The Puget Sound Recovery Act creates the following provisions within the new Sec. 123 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act:

(a) Program Office.

(1) Establishes an EPA Puget Sound Program Office ("Office").

(2) States that the Office is to be headed by a Director and located in the State of Washington.

(3) Provides the Office with additional staff as needed.

(b) Duties of Director.

(1) Directs the Director to assist the Puget Sound Partnership in carrying out its goals.

(2) Specifically, the Director should:

(A) Assist and support the implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan ("Comprehensive Plan");

(B) Coordinate the major functions of the Federal government related to the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan;

(C) Conduct or commission studies and research necessary for implementation of the Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan;

(D) Coordinate and manage environmental data;

(E) Coordinate Puget Sound grant, research, and planning programs;

(F) Coordinate efforts in Puget Sound and the Georgia Straits with Canada;

(G) Coordinate efforts, including activities under species recovery plans, with other Federal agencies with jurisdiction in the Puget Sound watershed;

(H) Collect and make available to the public information relating to the environmental quality of Puget Sound; and

(I) Biennially issue a report to Congress that—

(i) Summarizes the progress made;

(ii) Summarizes any modifications to the Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan; and

(iii) Incorporates specific recommendations concerning the implementation of the Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan.

(3) Specifies that the studies and research mandated under (2) (C) should include:

(A) Population growth and the adequacy of wastewater treatment facilities and on-site septic systems;

(B) The use of physical, chemical and biological methods for nutrient removal in sewage treatment plants;

(C) Contaminated sediments and dredging activities;

(D) Nonpoint source pollutant abatement;

(E) Wetland, riparian, and near shore protection and restoration;

(F) Flood abatement and floodplain restoration techniques;

(G) Impacts of forest and agricultural practices;

(H) Atmospheric deposition of pollutants;

(I) Water quality requirements to sustain fish, shellfish, and wildlife populations;

(J) State water quality programs;

(K) Options for long-term financing of wastewater treatment projects and water pollutant control programs;

(L) Water usage and efficiency;

(M) Toxic pollutants; and

(N) Such other areas as the Director considers appropriate.

(4) Grants the Director authority to enter into interagency agreements, make intergovernmental personnel appointments (IPAs), and utilize other methods to carry out the Director's duties.

(c) Grants to Implement Management Plan.

(1) Authorizes the EPA Administrator to award grants to eligible recipients for projects and studies to implement the Comprehensive Plan.

(2) Specifies that projects and studies eligible for grants include planning, research, modeling, construction, monitoring, implementation, citizen involvement and education.

(3) Specifies that the Federal share of the cost of the grant projects or studies should not exceed 50 percent.

(4) Defines "eligible recipient" for grants as a State, interstate, Tribal, regional, or local water pollution control agency or other public or nonprofit private agency, institution, or organization.

(d) Grants for Projects to Address Sewage and Stormwater Discharges.

(1) Authorizes the EPA Administrator to award grants to eligible recipients for projects to address sewage and storm water discharges.

(2) Specifies that projects eligible for grants include demonstration and research projects that provide treatment for, or that minimize, sewage or stormwater discharges.

(3) Regarding the awarding of sewage and storm water grants—

(A) Grants should be awarded on a competitive basis; and

(B) The EPA Administrator may give priority to a project located in a distressed community.

(4) Regarding the Federal share of the cost of a project receiving assistance—

(A) Specifies that the Federal share of the cost of the grant projects should not exceed 75 percent; and

(B) Specifies that, in distressed communities, the Federal share should not exceed 100 percent.

(5) Defines the following terms—

(A) Eligible Recipient: a State, interstate, Tribal, regional, or local water pollution control agency.

(B) Distressed Community: a community that meets affordability criteria established by the community's State.

(e) Annual Budget Plan.

(1) The President should include the Puget Sound Program in the annual budget of the U.S. Government, and related information, including:

(A) An interagency crosscut budget that displays for each Federal agency involved in Puget Sound activities—

(i) Amounts obligated in the preceding fiscal year;

(ii) The estimated budget for the current fiscal year;

(iii) The proposed budget; and

(B) A description of the Federal role in the Puget Sound Program and the specific role of each agency.

(2) The President should coordinate reporting, data collection, and planning activities with the Puget Sound Partnership.

(f) Authorizations.

Authorizes such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to carry out the Puget Sound Program.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR HOWARD UNIVERSITY.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support and pride in the outstanding achievements of the historical \$275 million Capital Campaign for Howard University.

The president of the Howard University Pat Swygert and his Howard University Trustee Team achieved remarkable results by raising \$275 million in a 5 year fund-raising campaign. The plan broke several records, including the most amount of money raised by an African-American institution and a record for Howard. These results were unthinkable without strong support of the alumnae, trustees and the involvement of the Congress. This year Congress contributed \$204.3 million to Howard University and \$28.9 million to Howard University Hospital.

The money raised through the Capital Campaign greatly improved Howard University by establishing modern equipped computer labs, glass walled conference rooms, exhibition galleries and other necessary facilities for successful student education. Hundreds of scholarships helped many students to complete their education reducing the burden of student loans. Growing number of alumni donate to Howard, seeing the success and achievements of the University. President Pat Swygert and his campaign did the terrific work not only raising the impressive amount of money, but also improving Howard as well as raising the reputation and the respect of the school.

(By Kathryn Masterson)

WASHINGTON.—As a dental student 35 years ago, Leo E. Rouse and his Howard University classmates learned to fill cavities and cap teeth by crowding around one faculty member and angling for a clear view of the day's demonstration.

Today students at Howard's College of Dentistry, where Dr. Rouse is now the dean, get an unobstructed view of dental procedures from computer monitors mounted on 45 workstations in the school's new simulation laboratory. If they miss something, they can go back and review by watching DVDs in the lab or on their laptops.

The \$1.3-million lab, which was built with money from the university's recently completed capital campaign, does more than enhance the students' experience, Dr. Rouse says. It has helped bring in donations from alumni and almost doubled the number of applications for the school's 85 seat class, from about 1,400 before the lab was built to 2,710 last year.

"Word gets around," Dr. Rouse said. "A school that has new stuff is attractive."

After raising \$275 million in its 5 year fund-raising campaign, the 11,000-student university has plenty of new stuff to show off. There's a simulated trading room in the School of Business, a van that travels around Washington to screen men for prostate cancer, an exhibition gallery in the architecture school, computer labs and glass-walled conference rooms in the health-science library, and almost 300 named scholarships.

The campaign broke a record for Howard, whose trustees and officers first considered a more modest \$100 million goal that the university president, H. Patrick Swygert, thought was too small. The effort also broke a record for the amount of money raised by an African-American institution.

Thanks in part to those gifts, the university's endowment, which was \$144 million when Mr. Swygert came in 1995, has swelled to \$510 million, an amount that put Howard among the 136 wealthy institutions asked to tell the U.S. Senate Finance Committee how they spend their endowments.

William F.L. Moses, a senior program director at the Kresge Foundation, says the "path-breaking, benchmark-setting" Howard campaign sets new expectations for how much money historically black institutions can raise. Kresge has supported programs to strengthen fund raising at historically black colleges and universities, giving \$18 million in grants over 5 years to five institutions (Howard was not among them) and \$8 million to the institutional-advancement program at the United Negro College Fund.

"It sets the bar, that this kind of success is possible and HBCU's can compete with mainstream institutions," Mr. Moses said. "HBCU's can compete with the best."

ALUMNI MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Howard's success was especially notable for how the university involved its alumni.

Alumni giving has been a challenge for historically black colleges, said Elfred Anthony Pinkard, executive director for UNCF's Institute for Capacity Building, which helps member colleges with fund raising, enrollment, and other management challenges. (Howard is not a member of the UNCF.) The Institute for Capacity Building has given grants to historically black colleges to hire consultants and buy software programs to help advancement efforts.

Alumni-affairs offices at the smaller institutions often have just one or two employees and giving rates for the colleges who work with the institute range from 7 percent to as high as 38 percent, Mr. Pinkard said. The national average is 12 percent, according to the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's 2007 Voluntary Support of Education survey.

Ann E. Kaplan, director of the Council for Aid to Education's survey on giving, said historically black colleges tend to have less mature fund-raising operations that rely more on money from foundations and corporations than from alumni. When she spoke at a UNCF conference, Ms. Kaplan said, she heard from college leaders who were more focused on raising money for current operations than on long-term planning and faced challenges such as poorly kept alumni records or understaffed advancement offices.

Though tithing to churches and giving to religious organizations are strong traditions among many African-Americans, the 19 historically black colleges that responded to the council's survey (a number Ms. Kaplan said was too small to be representative) had an average alumni-giving rate of 6 percent, half the overall national average.

"There's no reason to think HBCU's can't be as successful in raising money from their alumni, but they need to ask," Ms. Kaplan said. "Asking is the No. 1 reason why people give."

Mr. Swygert knew Howard wouldn't make its \$250 million goal without significant alumni participation, but he also knew that the university needed to do some work before it approached them for money. A previous capital campaign had been started in the 1980s with a goal of \$100 million but was never completed. At the start of Mr. Swygert's presidency, annual giving by alumni was at about 4 percent.

As one of only two federally chartered universities, Howard receives direct appropriations from the federal government each year. Congress had noted the low alumni giving rate, and one of the first things lawmakers asked Mr. Swygert to do as university president was to increase it. A higher giving rate would provide evidence that Howard graduates valued the education they received and that Congress should continue to maintain its level of financial support for the institution. This year Congress gave Howard University \$204.3 million and its hospital \$28.9 million, according to the Department of Education.

During the campaign, Howard's annual alumni-giving rate went as high as 20 percent, and it is now at 17 percent.

The key to getting more alumni to give, Mr. Swygert said, was to re-engage them with Howard by showing them the university's key asset: its students. Howard ran ads in local and national newspapers featuring students and sent postcards to alumni introducing them to Howard's Rhodes, Marshall, and Fulbright scholars, as well as distinguished alumni.

"People give to students, they give to ideas, they give to memory," Mr. Swygert said. "The idea of enabling a young person to go forth and do well is a very powerful notion."

Howard hired Virgil E. Ecton, who raised more than \$1.6 billion for UNCF in his 31-year career there, to run the campaign. As vice president for university advancement, Mr. Ecton oversaw upgrades to Howard's Web site, alumni magazine, and advancement office. Alumni records were improved, and the database of Howard graduates grew from 30,000 entries to more than 60,000.

BACKING A WINNER

Early on, trustees helped create momentum for the campaign with several large gifts. Frank Savage, an alumnus, chairman emeritus of the board, and chief executive of Savage Holdings LLC, an international financial-services company, announced he was giving \$5 million to the campaign. Richard D. Parsons, a trustee who led the campaign and is chairman of Time Warner, gave more than \$1 million. James E. Silcott, a Los Angeles architect, alumnus, and trustee, gave \$3 million. Mr. Swygert, an alumnus, donated more than \$2 million.

"That sent a clear signal to trustees, the giving community, and the community [at large] that we were serious about this campaign," Mr. Ecton said.

Mr. Ecton, Mr. Swygert, and trustees went on the road, appearing at a series of alumni events around the country. At the events, which drew up to 1,000 people in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Miami, Houston, and other cities, alumni would get up and pledge their support to the university, and the events began to take on a competitive spirit, Mr. Ecton said. One alumnus in Philadelphia pledged \$1 million, the Miami event raised \$8 million, and the New York event, held at the new headquarters of Time Warner, resulted in between \$25 million and \$30 million in pledges, he said.

"People like to be associated with a winner," Mr. Ecton said. "It was clear we were winning."

At the end of the campaign, 33 percent of the money raised was from Howard alumni.

Nationally, in 2007, alumni giving was 27.8 percent of total private giving, according to the Voluntary Support of Education survey.

One student who benefited directly from the money raised was Raquel SK Thompson, who graduated from Howard in May with a degree in architecture and received a trustees' scholarship during her last two years. The scholarship, which was backed by money raised during the campaign, covered half her tuition.

The money was a great help, said Ms. Thompson, who is from Barbados and wanted to attend a historically black college. The financial pressures of tuition, an unfavorable exchange rate, the cost of materials for her architecture classes, and restrictions on working off the campus were difficult for her and her parents, Ms. Thompson said, and without assistance she may have had to cut back on classes and work more on the campus in order to save money.

"It helped me finish school," said Ms. Thompson, who is now looking for a job in Washington or New York. Without the money, "I definitely think I would have been there another year," she said.

Both Mr. Swygert and Mr. Ecton say Howard should tap more alumni for larger donations in its next campaign. Fifty-one alumni gave more than \$1 million, and both officials think there is potential there to raise more. Mr. Swygert, who is retiring at the end of June, believes Howard's next campaign should have a goal of at least \$1 billion. The top institutions have campaigns that size, and Mr. Swygert says Howard should be in that group.

"I think it's a necessity," Mr. Swygert said. "It's a stretch, but \$250 million was a stretch."

TRIBUTE TO DR. RENATE REIMSCHUESSEL

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Dr. Renate Reimschuessel, recently nominated for the 2008 Service to America Homeland Security Medal. By honoring excellence in the Federal workforce, the Service to America Medal sends a compelling message to the American people about the importance of a strong civil service and inspires a new generation of Americans to public service.

The Homeland Security Medal recognizes a federal employee for a significant contribution to the nation in activities related to homeland security. Dr. Reimschuessel has been nominated for her scientific breakthrough that identified the cause of the largest pet food recall in history and is currently conducting critical research to guarantee the safety of imported foods.

In 2007, the FDA issued the largest pet food recall in history due to the significant number of pet fatalities. As a research biologist for the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine in Maryland, Dr. Reimschuessel was asked by the FDA to help investigate the cause of the hundreds of pet deaths and illnesses. Just weeks after she began her investigation, Dr. Reimschuessel discovered exactly why so many animals were getting sick, a discovery that is improving the safety of imported foods for both animals and humans.

Due to Dr. Reimschuessel's discovery, the United States has increased surveillance for melamine and related compounds in food ingredients. In an effort to identify potential risks to humans, she is continuing to test the effects of melamine in chickens, pigs, and fish. Dr. Reimschuessel's research helped improve the way our government preserves scientific specimens and identified the ability of nontoxic compounds to become toxic when combined. These discoveries helped resolve an immediate crisis, and her continued efforts are helping protect the U.S. food supply from tainted imports and toxic chemical combinations.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Dr. Renate Reimschuessel in her nomination for the 2008 Service to America Homeland Security Medal. Her tireless investigation into the cause of the mass illness of pets in 2007 not only resolved a nationwide crisis, but initiated a series of scientific improvements, both in the veterinary world and the in safety of our imported food supply. It is with great pride that I congratulate Dr. Reimschuessel on her exemplary efforts to help guard against ongoing threats to the safety of the U.S. food supply.

TRIBUTE TO FRED ZELLER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate West Marshall Iowa's girls' basketball head coach, Fred Zeller, for reaching the milestone of 500 career victories during this past 2008 season.

On January 22nd, the West Marshall Trojans defeated Woodward-Granger to give Coach Zeller his 500th career win during his 744th consecutive game coached. The road to this milestone began 37 years ago in Vinton, Iowa, where Coach Zeller began coaching junior high and freshman girls' basketball. He then moved on to coach LaPorte City for 14 years, Southeast Polk for two years, and in 1990 became head coach at West Marshall where he remains today.

Coach Zeller led four teams to the girls' state basketball tournament; LaPorte City in 1986 and West Marshall in 1998, 1999 and 2000. He was inducted into the Iowa Girls Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2003. He also served as the West Marshall baseball coach until a couple of years ago.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Coach Fred Zeller on his coaching success and this milestone achievement. It is an honor to represent Coach Zeller in Congress, and I wish him the best as he continues to provide a positive impact as a role model and educator.

JELLYSTONE PARK 30TH ANNIVERSARY—

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before

you today to recognize the 30th Anniversary of Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp-Resort in Portage, Indiana. To commemorate this special occasion, Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park will be holding an anniversary celebration on Saturday, July 5, 2008, at Jellystone Park in Portage, Indiana.

Jellystone Park was established in 1978 in order to provide camping and entertainment to vacationing families from across America. The Portage, Indiana, Jellystone Park is one of over 70 parks in the Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp-Resort Franchise System. The Jellystone Park Board of Directors are: President Rochelle Carmichael, Vice President Don Butler, Secretary Connie Williams, Treasurer George Hill, Park Director Carolyn Julovich, and members: Marlene Jacobs, Tina Green, and Charles Taylor.

Every year, thousands of families vacation at the Portage Jellystone Park to share time together and enjoy its amenities. The Park offers a fulltime recreation program, a private lake, beaches, fishing, rentals, arcade room, and several pools.

In addition to the weekly activities, the 30th Anniversary will feature a special commemorative ceremony, followed by live music at the Yogi Bear Stage and a fireworks display over the lake at dusk.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Yogi Bear's Jellystone Camp-Resort on their 30th Anniversary. Their many great accomplishments and hard work throughout the years are worthy of commendation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING BELMONT, OHIO FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR BICENTENNIAL

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Belmont, Ohio was founded in August of 1808 by Joseph Wright; and

Whereas, the residents of Belmont, Ohio are active, dedicated members of their Ohio community; and

Whereas, all citizens of Belmont, both past and present, will be honored with a multiple day bicentennial celebration that will include a pig roast, barn dance, antique car show, and old-fashioned games for children; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Belmont, Ohio and its residents for their contributions to our community and country.

THE DAILY 45: ERIC KEITH
WALTON

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. My heart goes out to the family

in Grand Rapids, Michigan who lost a dear loved one.

Thirty-eight-year-old Eric Keith Walton, slain in his home Monday, couldn't have put up much of a fight because he had been receiving dialysis treatments for kidney failure and was weakened, his family said.

Eric was apparently the victim of a home invasion. According to newspaper reports, Walton was shot twice, in the stomach and chest.

I was terribly impacted as I read this statement from a family member: "They really hurt us on this one. Everybody comes up and says, 'We love him to death.' He raised kids that weren't even his. I can't believe this."

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

IN HONOR OF JERRY PRIETO, RETIRING FRESNO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man who has been a tireless voice for agriculture in my home district of Fresno County, California. On June 29, 2008, Jerry Prieto will be retiring as the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner after over 35 years of dedicated service to Fresno County.

Agriculture continues to be California's number one industry with Fresno County ranking as the number one agricultural producing county in California and the nation. The fertile soils of Fresno County support over 300 different crops, valued at near \$5 billion annually to the economy of California. Many things contribute to California's bountiful crops, but one significant underlying factor in Fresno County's agricultural success has been the presence of Jerry Prieto as its lead advocate.

Jerry has never been a stranger to agriculture. The son of a migrant farm worker, Jerry was raised on a small family farm near Corcoran, California. Jerry attended California State University, Fresno, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science. In 1974, Jerry began working for the Fresno County Department of Agriculture advancing to the position of Deputy Agricultural Commissioner in 1980. In 1999, he was appointed to the position of Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures. In this position, Jerry has been responsible for promoting and regulating the Nation's number one agricultural producing county, and protecting the county's environment and the public's health, safety, and welfare.

Among Jerry's varied accomplishments is serving on then Governor Davis' State Committee on Terrorism. Jerry has also been active on many boards and for 4 years served as chairman of the Fresno County Department Heads Council. Mr. Prieto is a member of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, the Fresno County Council of Governments Farmland Conservation Steering Committee, chairman of the Fresno County Council of Governments Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee, and the Fresno County Land Conservation

Committee. He is the immediate president of the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association and was the first Agricultural Commissioner to serve two terms as President.

Jerry Prieto recently was quoted as saying, "All I ever wanted to do was to be a farmer." Part of what Jerry will now be able to focus on more is the acreage he owns. He plans to spend time with wife Cindy, his two children and two grandchildren. He also hopes to catch up on a little fishing. Though only days away from retirement, Jerry is still found diligently carrying out his responsibilities. His prompt and earnest action concerning the drought now facing California, mobilized Fresno County resources to quickly produce valuable data necessary for the Governor's office to declare an official drought emergency. I know that Jerry will continue to energetically advocate for Fresno County's Agriculture needs, not only up to, but well beyond his retirement date. It is only fitting that I recognize Jerry Prieto today before this Chamber and the country for unflinching service to his community, State and Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GRIFOLS USA TO LOS ANGELES AND THE UNITED STATES.

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Grifols USA to my community and other communities across the country.

This Friday will mark 5 years since Grifols USA began operating its facility in East Los Angeles. That is 5 years of over 600 jobs for residents of East Los Angeles and the surrounding area. Furthermore, Grifols' steady growth and expansion will continue to present additional opportunities to my constituents for years to come, and well into the future.

Grifols' prosperity has positively impacted many communities, not just my district. Currently, Grifols operates 78 plasma donor facilities, in 27 States across the country, which provide skilled and entry-level employment opportunities to over 3,000 Americans.

Perhaps more praiseworthy than Grifols' economic contributions though, is the company's mission. I would like to honor Grifols for its commitment to producing unique, life-saving medicines to treat small, chronically ill patient populations. The company's unwavering dedication to the development of safer, more effective plasma therapies, and progressing methods, has been a benefit to countless patients around the world who suffer from a number of disorders.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Grifols for the company's positive presence in many of our Nation's communities and tireless commitment to improve the lives of patients with chronic illnesses.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 24, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 442. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 442—"no"—On Motion to Adjourn.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I risk today in opposition to H.R. 6304, The FISA Amendments Act of 2008. As a representative from New York City, I know how important good intelligence is in ensuring that our Nation does not face another terrorist attack. However, we must ensure that we do not trample on civil liberties in the process. This administration has expanded the powers of the government to monitor the actions of American citizens with, unfortunately, too little oversight from Congress or the courts.

While I appreciate the efforts to reach a compromise on this legislation, H.R. 6304 does not go far enough to protect the rights of the American people. The legislation allows for retroactive immunity for telecommunication companies that participated in the Bush administration's warrantless wiretapping program. I also am concerned that most Members of Congress will not have access to important reports issued by the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence.

We should stand up for the Constitution and for the rights of our constituents by ensuring that their privacy is better protected.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a moment to express my enthusiastic support for H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, which amends titles XVII and XIX of the Social Security Act and extends expiring provisions under the Medicare program. H.R. 6331 not only prevents the 10.6 percent pay cut to physicians scheduled to take effect July 1 while maintaining current payment levels for the rest of 2008, but it replaces the additional 5.4 percent cut scheduled on January 1, 2009 with a 1.1 percent increase in Medicare physician payments. By preventing these cuts, suppliers will be able to anticipate the costs that they will incur and will be less likely to withdraw from the program. H.R. 6331 also has a very positive outcome for beneficiaries as well. The

provisions will improve choice and access to health care providers by changing the network requirements for the Medicare Advantage Private Fee for Service Plan. Further the bill will reduce cost-sharing for mental health services and increase coverage for preventive services.

These policy improvements will translate into significant relief for the national medical community, including the 21 hospitals in the Illinois Seventh Congressional District; a district which also has some of the most medically underserved constituents of any in this nation. Many of these individuals are Medicare beneficiaries that seek hundreds of Chicago doctors to provide Medicare services. Therefore, it is in the best interest of my constituents as well as Medicare providers, suppliers, and recipients across this nation that Congress enacts H.R. 6331, The Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act. As a testament to the importance of this issue to Chicago, I received over 50 calls within the last few days urging me to support this bill. I stand with these constituents and Chicago more broadly to support this bill.

I would like to thank Chairman RANGEL for spearheading this legislation. I have fought and will continue to advocate vigorously in Congress alongside my colleagues for the improvement of Medicare resources in support of Medicare providers, suppliers, and beneficiaries.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN MARY T. NORTON ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Congresswoman Mary T. Norton of New Jersey on the 70th anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Congresswoman Norton was instrumental in passing the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938, legislation which has greatly impacted our labor history and our history as a Nation.

Growing up, I attended an all-girls Catholic school called Lauralton Hall in Connecticut. Last year, I spoke with Lauralton's current president Barbara Griffin and discussed her research for a master's dissertation she wrote 25 years ago about Mary Norton—the first Democratic woman to serve in Congress and the first woman to chair a major committee in the House. A few weeks later, the dissertation showed up in my mailbox and I sat down with it over the holidays. After reading Barbara's dissertation, I was thoroughly impressed by Mary Norton. Her work laid the foundation that we are building on here today. And she did it all with a skillful blend of strength and compassion.

Mary T. Norton led an extraordinary life. She began her social activism in Jersey City and quickly became the first woman member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. She was elected to the House of Representatives for the 12th Congressional District of New Jersey in 1924, where she was the only woman in the House at that time who was not filling her husband's unexpired term

and one of the first women to be elected to and serve in Congress. Norton served in the House until 1951, for a total of 13 terms. During her time in Congress, Norton became the first woman to chair a major committee. In fact, she was head of three committees during her time in the House: Veterans' Affairs, District of Columbia, and Labor.

One of the Congresswoman's most accomplished moments came while she was chair of the Labor Committee in 1938 when the House passed the Fair Labor Standards Act. Despite much opposition to what was at the time a controversial bill and despite the first version of the legislation being rejected, the House passed the final version of the legislation by a vote of 314 to 97. The Fair Labor Standards Act was later signed into law by President Roosevelt on June 25, 1938.

The Fair Labor Standards Act plays a significant role in our labor history and our history as a Nation. It is the formative legislation for the labor rights that we today take for granted—minimum wage, overtime pay, and child labor laws—and greatly improved the quality of life for so many workers in our country. Congresswoman Norton was a champion for the American worker and played an integral role in passing this critical legislation that would shape our Nation for years to come.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me to celebrate and honor the life and work of Congresswoman Mary T. Norton on the 70th anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 439, H. Con. Res. 372, Supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and to honor the contributions to our Nation made by African American singers and musicians, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT INFORMATION ACT OF 2008

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Earned Income Tax Credit Information Act of 2008, legislation that will make it easier for millions of Americans to receive the Earned Income Tax Credit, (EITC).

Every year I host tax clinics in my district in order to help my constituents get a fair deal when they file their taxes. Hundreds of my constituents come to these clinics and with the help of volunteers receive thousands of dollars in tax refunds.

But millions of Americans and thousands in my district still don't get the tax credits they deserve, like the EITC. The EITC is the single most important tool we have to encourage work and reduce poverty in our country.

Nationally, over 22 million working Americans benefit from this program and receive

\$43 billion in Federal assistance. That's an average amount of over \$1900 per taxpayer. At \$4 a gallon, an average EITC check can now pay for 32 trips to the gas station to fill your tank.

In my district, over 38,000 taxpayers received \$64 million through the EITC. But because one-quarter of those eligible to receive EITC don't claim it, there are also nearly 13,000 of my constituents who should receive EITC but don't and they're losing out on \$25 million in benefits.

Nationally, there are 7 million Americans who are eligible to receive this benefit but don't. This amounts to a loss of \$14 billion to eligible working Americans.

American families are struggling to get by. The cost of gas, food, education, and health care are skyrocketing. How can we stand by and let the American people leave \$14 billion on the table?

A Republican Governor working with a Democratic legislature has given us a model for addressing this problem. Last year, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law Assembly Bill 650, the Earned Income Tax Credit Information Act. The bill was simple and straightforward. The law requires that California employers notify employees of their potential eligibility for the EITC when they send employees their W-2 forms.

Employers are uniquely positioned to help because they are already providing their employees with their W-2 forms that tell them their earnings for this year. This law simply piggy-backs on that requirement to help employees understand that they may be eligible to receive the EITC.

Our legislation takes the California law and expands it to the rest of the country. Under our bill, employees throughout the country who earn enough to be eligible for the EITC will receive a notice from their employer with their W-2 form telling them about the program and how to learn more about it. Small businesses will not be affected by the bill and the proposal won't cost American taxpayers one single dime. It's a common sense way to ensure families who need it most get the benefits they deserve.

I am hopeful that this legislation will be unnecessary. Today, Sen. SCHUMER and I will send a letter asking the Administration to accomplish this goal by executive order. Secretary Paulson is a supporter of EITC and I'm hopeful that he will build on his role during the economic stimulus debate and embrace this common-sense, fiscally responsible approach to providing hardworking Americans with additional fiscal relief.

Finally, Wal-Mart, the Nation's largest employer, and the SEIU, one of the Nation's leading labor unions, are supporting the bill. They understand the importance of the EITC to their workers and members. In addition, the bill is supported by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Citizens for Tax Justice, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Corporate Voices for Working Families, the College and University Professional Association of Human Resources, TJ Maxx, Kindred Healthcare, and Cintas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS REVENUE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2008, H.R. 6366

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I am introducing the Veterans Revenue Enhancement Act of 2008, which would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish today not more than seven consolidated patient accounting centers.

The concept of the Consolidated Patient Accounting Center, also known as CPAC, was included as a demonstration project in the Conference Report, House Report 109-95 and Conference Report 109-305, in 2005 accompanying H.R. 2528, requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, to initiate a revenue improvement demonstration project within 60 days after enactment of the bill, Public Law 109-114. The VA followed the recommendations in the report, and created the Mid-Atlantic Consolidated Patient Accounting Center demonstration project located in Asheville, North Carolina.

A recent GAO report reiterates previous findings that third party billing and collection processes at the Department continue to be ineffective and limit the revenue received by VA from third party insurance companies. Hundreds of millions of dollars continue to go uncollected, dollars that could be used to further improve the quality and quantity of veterans' health care.

With the establishment by VA of the Mid-Atlantic Consolidated Patient Accounting Center in Asheville, North Carolina, the collection of third party revenues has improved significantly at the medical centers in VISN 6. By implementing best practices, a standardized revenue cycle for business processes and training of personnel, the majority of the GAO report recommendations on maximizing third party revenue collections have been met.

The demonstration project has proven to be very successful in enhancing the revenue of the department by more than \$12.5 million in increased collections in FY 2007 and \$6.5 million so far in FY 2008 to an overall \$19 million total. Building on this success, my legislation would permit the VA to continue this successful venture at the Mid-Atlantic project in Asheville, North Carolina, and direct the Secretary to establish an additional six centers throughout the country in the next five years.

I urge my colleagues to support the Veterans Revenue Enhancement Act of 2008.

INTRODUCING THE HEALTHY TRANSITION ACT OF 2008

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation aimed at addressing the unique needs of young people with serious mental illness as they transition from adolescence into adulthood. Senator GORDON SMITH and Senator CHRIS DODD are introducing identical legislation in the Senate. We have an ob-

ligation to provide appropriate and effective mental health treatment and supports to young adults so that they can transition to healthy and successful adults.

Young adults suffering from mental illness fall through the cracks far too often. Senator SMITH and I requested that the Government Accountability Office, GAO, examine this issue. The GAO recently issued their report and the findings should disturb us all. At least 2.4 million young adults age 18-26 suffer from serious mental illness. Another 9.3 million have mild or moderate mental illness. Currently, there is no specific federal program aimed at these youth. Instead, we are left with a fragmented and ad hoc system that does not meet their unique needs. Not surprisingly, many of these youth are adrift without services, support, or guidance. They have lower education and employment rates than their peers and they are more likely to end up in jail or homeless. For youth who are aging out of foster care with no family supports the situation is particularly dire. One recent study found that these youth suffer from post traumatic stress disorder at rates similar to Iraq War veterans.

The GAO has clearly laid out the problem. But it is not enough to simply describe the current situation and become angry. Our outrage must lead to action. This legislation aims to change the tragic and unnecessary status quo and bring real support to millions of young people.

Some States are making strides to connect young adults with mental illness to systems that can assist them. The GAO documented 4 states—Maryland, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Mississippi—that are doing good work in this area. My home State of California is using dedicated mental health funding to specifically target adolescents and young adults with mental illness. I am pleased that states are undertaking this important work, but the Federal Government should and must play a role. There needs to be improved coordination among the many Federal agencies that provide services to these youth. Most critically, there needs to be Federal support and assistance to states committed to doing the right thing and creating innovative approaches to serve these youth. The Healthy Transition Act will do just that.

This bill builds on the successful Partnership for Youth in Transition Demonstration Program. It will provide grant funding to states to develop statewide coordination plans to assist adolescents and young adults with serious mental health disorders to acquire the skills and resources they need to make a healthy transition into adulthood. The state must specifically plan for youth who are in the juvenile justice system, the child welfare system, and those who have an education plan under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The bill will also provide grant funding for states to successfully implement their plans and create sustainability and comprehensive systems of care. Finally, the legislation will create a Committee of Federal Partners. The Committee will include representatives from all agencies that serve young adults as well as representatives from consumer and family advocacy organizations. The Federal Partners will evaluate the programs, provide technical assistance, and report to Congress on the progress being made.

As a Nation, our children are our greatest and most precious resource. We should measure ourselves by how well we equip them to succeed and lead healthy and fulfilling lives. For young people with mental health disorders, we have an obligation to provide the supports and resources they need to make a healthy transition. This bill is a crucial step toward fulfilling that obligation.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I must reluctantly rise in opposition to H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act. While I applaud the House for taking under consideration a bill to address the impending cut to Medicare physician reimbursement payments, H.R. 6331 contains provisions that would rob America's seniors of crucial health care access in the form of funding cuts to Medicare Advantage.

Indeed, H.R. 6331 contains a provision that would reverse the scheduled 10.6 percent payment cut set to take effect on July 1, 2008, a provision I have supported in the past. That being said, the bill also contains deep cuts to Medicare Advantage plans, which millions of seniors depend on to serve their broad health care needs. These cuts, totaling nearly \$50 billion, would place the burden of leadership's failed Medicare reform policies directly on the backs of America's seniors.

To be sure, Medicare Advantage is popular choice for seniors across the Nation. With nearly 10 million Medicare beneficiaries currently enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans, up nearly 60 percent since 2004, it is clear that America's seniors are seeing the benefits of the competition-driven plans. These plans offer greater choice, lower out-of-pocket costs, and expanded service to America's seniors who seek value and quality in their health care coverage.

Specifically, H.R. 6331 would target those beneficiaries who have chosen Private Fee-for-Service, PFFS, plans through Medicare Advantage by requiring PFFS plans to establish costly provider networks if they wish to continue to operate in areas that already have two or more networked plans. This requirement would apply to 96 percent of all counties in the United States, and, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, CBO, disrupt PFFS plans for more than 2 million seniors by 2013. In my State of Minnesota, each of the nearly 73,000 individual Medicare Advantage PFFS plans would be in jeopardy.

Furthermore, it is unfortunate that rather than considering a bill that will remedy the problem at hand, Democrat leadership chose to bring a bill to the floor that has been given a veto threat from the President. Both providers and patients deserve a bill that can be seriously considered for signature into law. This is not a topic on which we should play political games.

Mr. Speaker, America's physicians need Congress to prevent a devastating cut to their

Medicare reimbursement payments. However, the burden of the solution should not be placed on the shoulders of America's seniors, gambling with access to the health coverage on which they rely.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING 190TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCROGGSFIELD UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the dedicated people of Scroggsfield United Presbyterian Church celebrate their 190th anniversary; and

Whereas, Scroggsfield United Presbyterian Church was founded in 1818 under the leadership of Rev. Elijah Newton Scroggs; and

Whereas, Scroggsfield United Presbyterian Church still opens its doors for weekly services today; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the congregation of Scroggsfield United Presbyterian Church for their unwavering commitment, dedication and contributions to their community.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Congress is once again forsaking an opportunity to begin addressing Medicare's long-term fiscal problems. Instead, the legislation before us today, while not without its merits, exacerbates the problems facing Medicare by giving new authority to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), even though CMS's excessive power is a major reason why so many physicians and patients are dissatisfied with the current Medicare system.

One clear indicator of the lack of seriousness with which this issue is being treated is the fact that this bill is coming before us on suspension, a procedure generally used for noncontroversial legislation, such as bills naming Post Offices. This significant Medicare legislation will receive only 40 minutes of debate, and members will have no opportunity to offer amendments.

I certainly recognize the need to make adjustments in physicians' payments. Many physicians are already losing money treating Medicare patients, thanks to CMS's low reimbursements and the cost of having to comply with CMS's numerous rules and regulations. Unless Congress acts, many physicians will simply refuse to see Medicare patients. I think we all agree that driving physicians out of the Medicare program is not the proper way to reform the system.

Therefore, if H.R. 6331 only contained the provisions dealing with the physicians' rate

cut, I would vote for it. However, H.R. 6331 further endangers Medicare's fiscal situation by giving almost \$20 billion in new funds to CMS, and giving CMS new regulatory authority.

Instead of simply pretending we can delay the day of reckoning by giving CMS more money and power, we should be looking for ways to shore up Medicare by making cuts in other, lower priority programs, using those savings to ensure the short-term fiscal stability of Federal entitlement programs while transitioning to a more stable means of providing health care for senior citizens. I have been outspoken on the areas I believe should be subject to deep cuts in order to finance serious entitlement reform that protects those relying on these programs. I will not go into detail on these cuts, although I will observe that today the House Committee on Financial Services is planning to authorize billions of new foreign aid spending, perhaps some of those billions might be better spent reforming the Medicare system.

Congress should also reform the Medicare system by providing Medicare patients more control over their health care than is available under either traditional Medicare or the Medicare Advantage program.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6331 may provide some short-term benefit to Medicare providers, however, it does so by further jeopardizing the long-term fiscal soundness of the Medicare program. Thus, passage of this bill will ultimately damage the very Medicare providers and patients the bill aims to help.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES ARTHUR JOHNSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a man who exemplified the ideal husband, father, and human being to all whose lives he touched. James Arthur Johnson was born and raised in Philadelphia, where he lived his entire life. He graduated from Bok Vocational High School and went on to the Marine Corps, where he honorably served our country.

After serving in the Marine Corps, Officer Johnson continued his life's work in public service with the United States Post Office, followed by an appointment to the All Philadelphia Police Department in September 1957. As a police officer, his detail included the Highway Patrol, 19th Police District, and Narcotics Unit. During his career in the Philadelphia Police Department, Officer Johnson earned the respect of all who knew him. His strong moral fiber, wise counsel, fatherly ways made him a pleasure to encounter.

In 1971, Officer Johnson suffered an injury in the line of duty. Yet, he continued to serve our city from within the Mayor's Office of Information and Complaints. With 23 years of service on the Police Force under his belt, Officer Johnson retired in 1980. He then went on to become the housing site manager for the Philadelphia Housing Authority until he retired in 1990. Even though Officer Johnson entered his second round of retirement, he never gave up his cherished role as a public servant. He

was a well-known member of the Cobbs Creek community, where he was a baseball coach for the Cobbs Creek Cubs, as well as a mentor, Scout leader and surrogate father to many of the community's youth.

Madam Speaker, Officer Johnson's light was extinguished on June 13th, but the light he has shared with others burns ever so brightly. His loving family, friends, and community will miss him very much. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the condolences of the House to his family. I hope that they find comfort in the knowledge that his time on Earth was well spent and that he left the world a better place than the one he found.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GENE
OCHSENREITER

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gene Ochsenreiter, a friend, athlete, and community leader. Mr. Ochsenreiter passed away in February of this year, and was honored at the 50th anniversary of the Western North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame Banquet recently.

Western North Carolina lost a sports giant in February. Mr. Ochsenreiter was the captain of the University of Maryland men's basketball team in 1941, and also ran with the University's track team. He was also the 1/2 mile champion in the Southern Conference and Junior National AAU Championships. In Asheville, he won numerous golf championships at the Country Club of Asheville. In 1988, he was inducted into the Western North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Ochsenreiter was a leader on and off the court. In 1958, Mr. Ochsenreiter founded the Mountain Amateur Athletic Club in Western North Carolina. Twenty years later in 1978 Mr. Ochsenreiter helped to found the Western North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame to honor western North Carolina high school and college athletes and teams. During his tenure with the WNC Hall, Mr. Ochsenreiter expanded the scope of the Hall to include all sports, as well as the Special Olympics and academics. He was a firm believer that students should put their academics before their sports career, and this was reflected during his time with the WNC Hall of Fame.

Serving on the Asheville City Council and as a one-time mayor of Asheville, Mr. Ochsenreiter's contributions to Western North Carolina are endless.

As a member of the WNC Hall of Fame, I thank Mr. Ochsenreiter for his dedication and commitment to the Hall during his fifty years of service. He will be missed. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Gene Ochsenreiter.

REMEMBERING THE KOREAN WAR
AND THE U.S.-KOREA FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker. Today marked the 58th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. Five years after the Second World War ended in the Pacific, a new conflict erupted, the first major engagement of the forces of communism and the forces of freedom in the Cold War period.

By the time the armistice was signed almost 3 years later, millions of Koreans had been killed, wounded or displaced from their homes, whole towns and villages had been destroyed, and the entire peninsula was plunged into poverty. More than 36,000 American soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen who served in the Korean War lost their lives.

It has been my privilege to represent hundreds of Korean War veterans who live in my district in Brooklyn and Staten Island. I have come to know personally many of these brave and heroic constituents.

Although many of these Korean War veterans are reaching old age, they live vibrant lives, contributing to our community in countless ways. The sacrifices they made across an ocean helped form their characters, which guided them through college and careers, as they raised their families and built their businesses, indeed, as many of them became political and community leaders themselves.

In the years since the Korean War came to a close, South Korean soldiers have fought alongside Americans not only in Korea but in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In fact, South Korea sent the third-largest contingent of armed forces to Iraq among all the countries that have participated in that conflict.

Korea has often been described as an "economic miracle." Fifty years ago, South Korea was an impoverished, Third World country perceived as having few prospects for survival, much less potential for affluence. Today it has the world's 11th-largest economy, known for its high-technology industries. It is the 7th-largest trading partner of the United States.

It is no wonder, therefore, that almost exactly a year ago, on June 30, 2007, negotiators for the United States and the Republic of Korea concluded a Free Trade Agreement that now awaits approval by Congress and the South Korean National Assembly before it is fully implemented.

In a recent report, the U.S. International Trade Commission has forecast that the elimination of tariffs on U.S. goods under the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement would increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the United States by over \$10 billion annually. The agreement will also eliminate regulatory and other non-tariff barriers that have historically restricted access by American farmers, manufacturers, and service providers to the South Korean market.

In the past week, the United States and South Korea signed a protocol regarding the importation of U.S.-originating beef to Korean markets. As anyone who reads the newspaper knows, this issue has been politically volatile in South Korea. U.S. and South Korean trade

negotiators deserve a great deal of credit for their delicate handling of this situation. It is my understanding that American beef exports to Korea will recommence within the next few days.

While the beef import issue seemed to be an obstacle to approval of the Free Trade Agreement, the overall advantages to both our countries that will ensue from the agreement have prevailed. And this is a good thing, a healthy thing for American workers and American consumers, and for Koreans, too.

With growing uncertainty about the health of our economy, it is critically important that we make every effort to spur U.S. economic growth and create new American jobs through securing access to markets in which U.S. farmers and businesses can compete and succeed. The proposed U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement stands to further increase U.S. exports to Korea and will generate new jobs for Americans.

Madam Speaker, it has been nearly six decades since the outbreak of the Korean War and we must "never forget" the sacrifices of our Korean War veterans. As we commemorate this somber occasion, let us look forward to the opportunities the future will bring as the U.S.-Korean friendship and economic partnership is broadened, deepened, and strengthened. The U.S.-Korea relationship deserves to be celebrated, and I ask my colleagues to join in offering their own expressions of support.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is June 25, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,937 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson

said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them. And it seems so sad to me, Madam Speaker, that this Sunset Memorial may be the only acknowledgement or remembrance these children who died today will ever have in this Chamber.

So as a small gesture, I would ask those in the Chamber who are inclined to join me for a moment of silent memorial to these lost little Americans.

So Madam Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,937 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Madam Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is June 25, 2008—12,937 days since Roe versus Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
JEFFERY A. SPENCER FOR HIS 14
YEARS SERVING AS EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO VALLEY
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COM-
MISSION

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Jeffery A. Spencer has served as Executive Director of Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission for over 14 years; and

Whereas, Mr. Spencer has tirelessly assisted scores of communities in acquiring over \$50 million in critically needed development projects; and

Whereas, he continues to support many regional initiatives that bring more development funds and assistance to Southern Ohio; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Jeffery A. Spencer for his contributions to his community and country.

HONORING THE VILLAGE OF
MANITO, ILLINOIS ON THE OCCA-
SION OF ITS 150TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Village of Manito, Illinois on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

The Village of Manito, located in Mason County, Illinois, was first inhabited by William Herron and his sister in 1838. In 1858, with the news that the Illinois River Railroad was to develop through their land, James Cox, his son Robert Cox, and William Langston divided 110 acres of their land into streets, lots and alleys, establishing a new village, named Manito.

Manito is located in the heart of Illinois in an area known for its hardworking people, outstanding farmers and respected traditions. Manito always has been, and primarily remains, an agricultural community. The diverse soil in the area promotes the growth of a broad range of crops and farming methods. This area has been shown to effectively produce corn, soybeans, vegetables and other harvest. The citizens of Manito continue to add to the world agricultural community by being stewards of their land and setting the precedent for how a farming community should operate.

Today, Manito is a progressive village with a population of over 1700, and while Manito remains proud of its past, it looks willingly toward the future. The original "Main Street" continues to serve as the commercial center of Manito; however, the surrounding marketing areas continue to thrive and develop.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the Village of Manito in the United States House of Representatives and I extend my best wishes to the village and its citizens for another 150 years of prosperity.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 9

10 a.m.

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine administrative and management operations of the United States Capitol Police.

SR-301

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 2443 and H.R. 2246, bills to provide for the release of any revisionary interest of the United States in and to certain lands in Reno, Nevada, S. 2779, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to clarify that

uncertified States and Indian tribes have the authority to use certain payments for certain noncoal reclamation projects, S. 2875, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide grants to designated States and tribes to carry out programs to reduce the risk of livestock loss due to predation by gray wolves and other predator species or to compensate landowners for livestock loss due to predation, S. 2898 and H.R. 816, bills to provide for the release of certain land from the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area in the State of Nevada, S. 3088, to designate certain land in the State of Oregon as wilderness, S. 3089, to designate certain land in the State of Oregon as wilderness, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and non-Federal land, and S. 3157, to provide for the exchange and conveyance of certain National Forest System land and other land in southeast Arizona.

SD-366